

Rehabilitation Writing Group Update

NECC Summit
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GUIDING PRINCIPAL 1

Stroke Center Designation: Rehabilitation

- Stroke center designation by any state in NECC or credentialing agency should require primary stroke centers to provide rehabilitation services and to make plans for post-discharge rehabilitation care.
- Comprehensive stroke centers should be required to provide acute care rehabilitation services and post-acute care rehabilitation services on site or as part of a formal stroke care network.
- Post-acute rehabilitation providers should obtain certification in stroke rehabilitation by external credentialing agencies.

GUIDING PRINCIPAL 2

Practice Guidelines

- Stroke centers and other stroke care providers should practice stroke rehabilitation based on guidelines developed from the results of the highest quality evidence, particularly the results of randomized clinical trials.
- NECC should participate in the development and adoption of rehabilitation practice guidelines.

GUIDING PRINCIPAL 3

Professional Education about Rehabilitation

- Stroke care providers should be knowledgeable about stroke rehabilitation including the treatment focus of different rehabilitation disciplines, who will benefit from different rehabilitation intensities and locations, optimal timing and duration of rehabilitation, variations in insurance coverage, etc.
- NECC rehabilitation experts should develop educational tools about rehabilitation for stroke care providers.

GUIDING PRINCIPAL 4

Communication across the Continuum

- Stroke care providers, from acute care to rehabilitation to long term health care, should have established mechanisms for and be required to have feed forward and feedback communication.
- NECC should develop recommendations for these communication mechanisms.

GUIDING PRINCIPAL 5

Outcome Measures

- Designated stroke centers should be required to collect outcome data several months after discharge, thus reflecting the impact of rehabilitation (or the lack of it).
- NECC should participate in the recommendation of and development of outcome measures.

GUIDING PRINCIPAL 6

Innovation to Attack Impairment and Incorporate Research Evidence to Update Practice

- Neuroscience research should include development of interventions, based on the neuroscience of stroke recovery, that reduce disability through amelioration of impairments.
- Stroke rehabilitation practices should be regularly updated to incorporate results of this research and to be increasingly based on rigorous clinical research.
- NECC should advocate this line of investigation and updating of stroke rehabilitation.