



St. Luke's
Rehabilitation Institute

ST. LUKE'S REHABILITATION INSTITUTE
Spokane, Washington

Originator: Inpatient Therapy
Original Date: 9/94
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3/13, 2/14
Stakeholders: Therapy, Psychology, Nursing, Administration, Physician

SEXUALITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

POLICY:

Sexual and reproductive health issues will be addressed as needed to meet the educational needs of the patient.

Patient and spouse/partner will be introduced to basic sexuality issues, including the expectation that sexuality will be addressed in rehabilitation, if appropriate. In addition, patient and family/spouse/partner will be directed to information regarding sexuality included in the Patient Teaching Manual / Patient and Family Resource Guide and encouraged to review this information with M.D. and/or psychologist. Individuals with spinal cord injuries will be informed of additional sections of the Patient Teaching Manual for a basic core curriculum regarding sexuality and reproductive health (procedure attached).

PROCEDURE:

1. The opportunity for education and discussion focusing on sexuality, family planning, reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases will be provided in individual sessions for each patient and spouse/partner by their M.D. and/or psychologist. As appropriate to the patient's particular situation and if the patient is receptive to additional information, books and videotapes may be used.
2. Staff is encouraged to deal with questions regarding sexuality as appropriate and to refer the patient and spouse/partner to their M.D. and/or psychologist for specific information. All staff will be educated on sexuality issues to maximize their knowledge and comfort.
3. Psychological counseling will be offered to the patient and spouse/family/partner, if appropriate.
4. Patients and their spouse/family/partner will be provided appropriate levels of education regarding sexuality issues.
5. Privacy will be assured for couples while at St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute. Training in bladder and bowel issues related to sexuality will be conducted by their M.D. and/or nurse. Please refer to Patient Teaching Manual.

PROCEDURE FOR SPINAL CORD DYSFUNCTION:

1. Sexual and reproductive education will be included in the Yes You Can book that each inpatient and outpatient with spinal cord dysfunction will be provided.

2. Sexual and reproductive education will be included in the group and/or one-on-one classes provided to all inpatients with spinal cord dysfunction.
3. When an inpatient needs or requests additional, more detailed or personal education, the attending physician may request a consultation by the SCI program medical director to provide one-on-one education with the patient.
4. Outpatients identified as having more detailed or personal education needs may be referred for an outpatient appointment with the SCI program medical director or SCI outpatient clinic to obtain additional one-on-one education.
5. Intimacy and relationship issues will be addressed by the psychologist. Automatic psychology referral is done for all inpatients with spinal cord dysfunction, and for outpatients, they may be referred by therapy staff to the psychologist by asking for an order from the referring physician for psychology consultation and treatment.
6. Listing for additional resources in the community to whom patients may be referred will be listed in program specific education materials.