

### **10A NCAC 13D .3031 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY PATIENTS**

Inpatient rehabilitation facilities providing services to persons with spinal cord injuries shall meet the requirements in this Rule in addition to those identified in this Section.

- (1) Direct-care nursing personnel staffing ratios established in Rule .3027 of this Section shall not be applied to nursing services for spinal cord injury patients in the inpatient rehabilitation facility or unit. The minimum nursing hours per spinal cord injury patient in the unit shall be 6.0 nursing hours per patient day. At no time shall direct care nursing staff be less than two full-time equivalents, one of which shall be a registered nurse.
- (2) The inpatient rehabilitation facility or unit shall employ or provide by contractual agreements physical, occupational or speech therapists in order to provide a minimum of 4.0 hours of specific or combined rehabilitation therapy services per spinal cord injury patient day.
- (3) The facility shall provide special facility or special equipment needs of patients with spinal cord injury, including specially designed wheelchairs, tilt tables and standing tables.
- (4) The medical director of an inpatient spinal cord injury program shall have either two years experience in the medical care of persons with spinal cord injuries or six months minimum in a spinal cord injury fellowship.
- (5) The facility shall provide continuing education in the care and treatment of spinal cord injury patients for all staff.
- (6) The facility shall provide specific staff training and education in the care and treatment of spinal cord injury.
- (7) The size of the spinal cord injury program shall be adequate to support a comprehensive, dedicated ongoing spinal cord injury program.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 131E-104;  
RRC objection due to lack of statutory authority Eff. July 13, 1995;  
Eff. January 1, 1996;  
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 22, 2015.*