



PROJECT TITLE: Care Coordination Activities for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury

PROPOSAL NUMBER: Patient1

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RESEARCH THEME: Patient Experience

BUDGET: \$50,000

MULTI-UNIVERSITY PROJECT: NO

PROJECT YEAR: 2

DESCRIPTION:

This is Phase 2 of a project designed to develop and pilot-test a care coordination program for people newly diagnosed with spinal cord injury (SCI). Phase 1 activities, which are currently underway, focused on developing the care coordination program. This phase includes (1) a review of relevant literature and (2) in-depth interviews with patients with SCI, their caregivers, physicians, other health care workers who specialize in SCI, and staff at the Lakeshore Foundation. Based on findings from these two activities, a pilot intervention will be developed. Phase 2 will implement the care coordination program developed in Phase 1 and assess the extent to which it improves the quality of life of participants.

HOW THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN RELATED RESEARCH:

Several studies have documented the effectiveness of care coordination/transitions of care activities. Most of these studies focus on the general population and do not address the specific and unique needs of individuals newly diagnosed with SCI. The proposed project aims at addressing the needs of individuals with significant mobility limitations. In additions, the project specifically addresses how a local disability focused community organization can partner with an academic medical center to improve the quality of life of individuals with SCI.

EXPERIMENTAL PLAN:

Phase 2 will be a mixed methods study with the following components:

- (1) Participant self-reported assessments of their quality of life using validated instruments from the PROMS inventory.
 - Pre/Post comparisons among individuals receiving care coordination
 - Comparisons between individuals who did and did not receive care coordination
- (2) Compare hospital use between intervention and control groups
- (3) In-depth interviews with both groups. These interviews will focus on care experiences following their SCI diagnosis.

EXPECTED MILESTONES:

- Implementation of care coordination intervention
- Quality of life assessments and hospital data acquisition
- Analysis on hospital use and quality of life
- In-depth interviews
- Final report
- Peer review manuscript

BENEFITS TO INDUSTRY:

Evidence of the effectiveness of a care-coordination program on improving the quality of life of SCI patients

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:

Final report documenting study findings
Submitted manuscript for publication