



MEDICAL/SURGICAL SPECIALTIES

Patients require special care when they arrive at Shepherd Center due to complications resulting from spinal cord injury and disease, multiple sclerosis, brain injury or a neuromuscular disorder. It is critical that all secondary conditions be fully addressed before a patient begins rigorous rehabilitation.

Shepherd Center is equipped to treat patients who require medical or surgical interventions due to secondary complications from an injury or degenerative disease. Specialty services include the treatment of pressure sores, urological complications, gastrointestinal complications, respiratory disease (i.e., pneumonia), and deep vein thrombosis. Last year Shepherd Center served 178 patients who were admitted for medical/surgical reasons. Patients may receive concentrated medical care in one or more of the following programs:

- **Medical Program** Designed for patients who are admitted with conditions that occurred post injury or disease, the program offers treatment to stabilize these conditions and help secure better future health. Reasons for admission to the program may include respiratory complications, spasticity management, pain, contractures, tendon transfers, spine stabilization, urological problems and colostomies.
- **Skin** The skin program is geared to patients who have skin complications or who require reconstructive surgery. The average length of stay for a patient admitted for skin surgery is 5-6 weeks. Last year Shepherd Center served 55 patients who required surgical repair of a pressure sore obtained following a spinal cord injury.
- **Urology** Urological complications following spinal cord injury are the number one reason for re-hospitalization. Our team of specialists can offer medical treatment for urinary tract infections, as well as urosepsis. In addition, surgical bladder reconstruction can limit the number and severity of urinary complications caused by urinary

system dysfunction. Approximately 5-10 patients per year require this medical/surgical treatment.

- **Respiratory** About 20 percent of Shepherd Center admissions to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit have respiratory issues and require the assistance from a ventilator to breathe. We have a team of specialists who can assist a person who meets criteria to wean from a ventilator. In addition, pneumonia due to respiratory issues is still a common secondary complication. Our treatment team can also medically treat persons who have pneumonia.

SHEPHERD CENTER IS

- The largest freestanding hospital in the country devoted to the medical care and rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injury and disease, acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis and other neuromuscular problems.
- A Spinal Cord Injury Model Center designated by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.
- Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), and its spinal cord and brain injury programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Admissions	1-800-SHEPHERD or 404-350-7345
Main Switchboard	404-352-2020

Visit Shepherd Center online at www.shepherd.org