

REHABILITATION SERVICES

CHAPTER 43

There is an integrated service model of Rehabilitation and Aged Care across SWSAHS, with formal collaboration with Aged Care Psychiatry services.

Three models of rehabilitation practice are supported in the Area:

1. Rehabilitation Medicine service – multidisciplinary rehabilitation under the medical governance of a consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine;
2. Medical Specialty Rehabilitation service - multidisciplinary rehabilitation under the medical governance of a specialist (rheumatology, cardiology, respiratory medicine and so on); and
3. Generalist Rehabilitation service - multidisciplinary rehabilitation under the medical governance of a general practitioner.

This plan is primarily concerned with the development of the first model, Rehabilitation Medicine services

All Hospitals are referral sources for the three inpatient rehabilitation units at Bankstown, Braeside and Camden Hospitals. A specialist (State-wide) traumatic brain injury service for young adults is located at Liverpool and described in the previous chapter. Patients with traumatic spinal cord injuries are referred to one of two statewide spinal injury units, while patients with non-traumatic spinal cord lesions are managed within the SWSAHS. Upper limb amputees are referred to the amputee program at Prince Henry / Prince of Wales Hospital, as the condition is rare and patients benefit from a concentration of expertise.

Current Services

Bankstown Hospital

Rehabilitation services at Bankstown include 32 designated rehabilitation beds available including the specialised orthopaedic / amputee rehabilitation unit of 20 beds and 12 beds within the Stroke Unit. Acute stroke patients (additional 8 acute stroke beds on the Stroke Unit) and acute rehabilitation patients are co-located and managed on the same ward, bringing it to a 20-bed Stroke Unit. In 2002/03, the combined activity in Wards 2A and 2B was 676 separations, occupying 14,165 beddays at an average LOS of 21.0 days.

Braeside Hospital

Braeside Hospital is a third schedule hospital managed by Hope Healthcare and located on the Fairfield Hospital campus. There are 36 rehabilitation beds available, with Fairfield and Liverpool Hospitals the main referral sources. Braeside Hospital provides specialist rehabilitation services to all SWSAHS for younger and more complex rehabilitation patients, though patients may elect to receive their therapy in units closer to their homes. In 2002/03, there were 1,539 separations for rehabilitation, including 1,074 same day seps (70%), occupying 12,594 beddays for an average LOS of 8.2 days and 24.8 days, with and without dayonly separations. Over 50% of beddays are for neurological rehabilitation, with the majority for the treatment of patients following stroke.

Fairfield Hospital

Liverpool and Fairfield operate under a combined sector model. Rehabilitation, aged care psychiatry and palliative care services are provided by Braeside Hospital to the residents of Fairfield and Liverpool, and aged care services are provided by the Fairfield /Liverpool ACAT. A consultative service is available at Fairfield Hospital.

Liverpool Hospital

A consultative service is available at Liverpool, with Liverpool and Fairfield operating under a combined sector model. Rehabilitation medical staff have admitting rights to 4 beds at Liverpool Hospital, though this is generally not exercised. Local residents are referred to Braeside for inpatient rehabilitation.

Campbelltown Hospital

Services are organised as a continuum of Aged Care and Rehabilitation across Campbelltown and Camden Hospital community services. A specialist consultation service is provided to inpatients at Campbelltown Hospital, by medical staff based at Camden. Planning is underway to open a 34-bed Aged Care and Psychogeriatric Unit at Campbelltown Hospital in 2005.

Camden Hospital

Rehabilitation services provided by Camden include a 20-bed ward combining subacute aged care and rehabilitation. In 2002/03, the ward treated patients totaling 250 separations and 6,771 beddays for an average LOS of 27.1 days, at an occupancy of 93%.

Bowral Hospital

Bowral Hospital provides rehabilitation services at role delineation Level 3 and rehabilitation services are provided within existing acute beds. Patients requiring specialist inpatient rehabilitation are transferred to the Camden facility.

Non-Inpatient Services

Bankstown Health Service provides an Aged Care Advisory Team (ACAT) service and a separate Outpatient Rehabilitation Team (OPRT), which provides services to the residents of the Bankstown LGA. OPRT provides short-term outpatient centre-based and home-based rehabilitation. Patients attending OPRT include those with neurological conditions eg CVA, orthopaedic conditions and lower limb amputees. An equipment pool and PADP centre are located at Bankstown Hospital to service the sector.

For patients who live in the Fairfield LGA, Braeside Hospital provides an outpatient hospital rehabilitation service. There is also a Day Hospital service predominantly for patients discharged from Braeside who live in either Fairfield or Liverpool LGA and who require intensive non-inpatient therapy. Most of the day hospital rehabilitation occasions of service are for people recovering from neurological conditions, and a significant number of the outpatient rehabilitation occasions of service are for the treatment of stroke both at Liverpool and Braeside Hospitals.

The Fairfield / Liverpool Aged Care and Rehabilitation Team provides continuing and extended care as well as ambulatory and transitional care initiatives. Liverpool Outpatient Rehabilitation Team predominantly services the Liverpool Area. It provides outpatient amputee rehabilitation for both the Liverpool and Fairfield sectors. An equipment pool and PADP centre are located at Liverpool Hospital to service Fairfield and Liverpool sectors.

The Macarthur Aged Care and Rehabilitation Team based at Camden Hospital provide aged care assessment, a limited outpatient service (Day Hospital) and domiciliary rehabilitation for the area. An outpatient service to amputees is provided to residents of Camden, Campbelltown, Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands. PADD is located at Camden and there is an Equipment Loan Pool service at Campbelltown Hospital. The Macarthur Aged Care and Rehabilitation Team is relocating to Campbelltown Hospital in 2005, and the ACAT and predominantly HACC funded Community Rehabilitation and Physical Disability Team will remain at Camden.

At Bowral, the Aged Care and Rehabilitation Team provides continuing and extended care as well as ambulatory and transitional care initiatives. An equipment pool and PADD centre are located at Bowral Hospital to service the Wingecarribee sector.

Table 43.1 Rehabilitation Inpatient Activity at Bankstown Hospital

	2001/02	2002/03
Ward 2A		
Separations	303	342
Beddays	6,519	7,083
Average LOS [days]	21.5	20.7
Occupancy	97%	97%
Ward 2B		
Separations	351	334
Beddays	7,069	7,082
Average LOS [days]	20.1	21.2
Occupancy	97%	97%

Source: PIRS SWSAHS Finance

Table 43.2 Rehabilitation Inpatient Activity at Braeside Hospital

	2001/02	2002/03
Separations (Seps)	927	1,539
Day only Seps	488	1,074
Beddays	11,783	12,594
Average LOS [days]	12.7	8.2
Average LOS excl day only [days]	25.7	24.8

Source: NSW Health *Flowinfo* V5.1 (SRG Rehabilitation, acute and nonacute)

Table 43.3 Rehabilitation Inpatient Activity at Camden Hospital

	2001/02	2002/03
Separations	394	250
Beddays	6,136	6,771
Average LOS [days]	15.6	27.1
Occupancy	89%	93%

Source: PIRS SWSAHS Finance

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rehabilitation services form into an Area-wide service based at Liverpool, Bankstown, Fairfield, Braeside and Camden Hospitals.
- There be Area-wide cross-accreditation of medical rehabilitation staff.
- Rehabilitation beds and transitional care services be enhanced and operate collaboratively with Braeside Hospital rehabilitation service.
- Further develop outpatient rehabilitation services across the area.