



CHOOSING A REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

16 Questions to Ask

As you evaluate rehabilitation centers for spinal cord and/or brain injury, there are several key factors that can make a significant difference in achieving a successful outcome and independence post-rehabilitation. These questions can help you compare and contrast rehabilitation hospitals to determine which is right for you.

1. How many patients who have injuries similar to the patient I know are treated per year at this facility?
2. How many patients are being treated for this type of injury right now?
3. Are there patients here whose ages are about the same as the patient I know?
4. Is the facility a specialty center, and if so, for how long has it focused on that specialization? What specialty accreditations does the facility have?
5. How many years of experience do the physicians have, on average? Staff?
6. How long have the physicians practiced at the facility? Are they full-time or part-time?
7. Which physicians, therapists, and other professionals will work with the patient?
8. Who will be the patient's primary physician, and does he/she specialize in this particular injury?
9. Is air transportation available?

10. Are specialty education programs available for patients and families during rehabilitation? What are they? And are there brain injury or spinal cord injury resources available after they leave?
11. What is the family's role? What are the policies regarding family visitation?
12. Is there designated low-cost housing available near your facility?
13. Who will help with discharge planning before the patient comes home?
14. Are long-term follow-up services provided? If so, what are they? And are there peer mentorship networks available?
15. Are the physicians and staff currently involved with research and training? If so, in what areas?
16. What is the caseload size for the nursing, treatment, and counseling staff?

Craig Hospital is a world-renowned hospital and research center specialized in the care of people who have sustained a spinal cord and/or a brain injury. Located in Englewood, Colo., Craig Hospital is a 93-bed, private, not-for-profit care facility providing a comprehensive system of inpatient and outpatient medical care, rehabilitation, neurosurgical rehabilitative care, and long-term follow-up services. Half of Craig's patients come from outside of Colorado. Craig has been ranked as a top 10 rehabilitation center by *U.S. News & World Report* for 31 consecutive years. Craig received the NDNQI® award in 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2020 for the highest quality outcomes in nursing care in a rehabilitation facility. Craig also received its 4th recognition for excellence in nursing by the American Nurses Credential Center (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program® in 2020. The 2020 recognition ensures Magnet designation until the year 2025.