

Reimbursable, evidence-based cancer rehab certifications for clinicians, hospitals cancer centers and therapy practices

Oncology Rehab Partners, LLC is an innovative Massachusetts based social entrepreneurial company that is breaking new ground in the field of cancer care. Oncology Rehab Partners is the healthcare industry's first company, through its STAR Program® Certification process, to provide hospitals, cancer centers and individual clinicians with the tools needed to develop and deliver quality, reimbursable cancer rehab services to the millions of survivors who suffer from debilitating side-effects caused by treatments.

Certifications offered:

- STAR Program® Certification (Institutional)
- STAR Certified™ Clinician (Individual)
- STAR Certified™ Provider (Individual)

Case Study: STAR Cancer Rehabilitation at Jupiter Medical Center

A Top Rated Hospital Continues on the Path of Excellence

Cancer rehabilitation services are quickly becoming a critical component of oncology care and survivorship plans. These specialized services, from providers trained in medically sound, evidence-based protocols, can significantly improve the quality of life for patients under treatment, in remission or living with cancer. To train their staff and better serve the needs of their patients, the Cancer Center at Jupiter Medical Center chose the STAR Program® Certification.



Therapists at the Jupiter Medical Center

Challenge

Staying current on the latest research and best practices in medicine is a never-ending pursuit for today's healthcare providers. Jupiter Medical Center, a patient-focused, 283-bed community hospital in Jupiter Florida is well aware of this challenge and provides an excellent example for others to follow.

The hospital was recognized in the 2011-2012 U.S. News and World Report as one of the top ranked hospitals in Palm Beach County and "high performing" in five specialty areas, including cancer. They offer a broad range of rehabilitation services in the

outpatient, inpatient and sub-acute setting and provided these services to some cancer patients even before they were STAR Program Certified. However, the hospital staff knew that cancer rehabilitation was a rapidly progressing clinical field and recognized there was opportunity for improvement. After all, their motto is "Expect Excellence Always."

While rehabilitation services have long been standard practice in cardiology and orthopedic medicine, specialized cancer rehabilitation is a relatively new development. Evidence-based protocols have recently been developed, and the benefits have been clearly demonstrated, creating demand from physicians and patients alike. Hospitals and cancer centers across the country now need to deliver.

Solution

When decision makers at Jupiter Medical Center learned about the STAR Program Certification from Oncology Rehab Partners, it didn't take long before the contract was signed and the training began. Clinicians and administrators were well versed in the value of evidence-based cancer rehabilitation from reading the latest research and profiles of other excelling hospitals. The topic had been under discussion for over a year and the hospital had even tried a few in house-efforts to get a program up and running. "The timing could not have been better," explained Sue Goulding, who at the time was the Oncology Coordinator and now holds the position of Marketing Coordinator at Jupiter Medical Center.

The STAR Program Certification is fully developed and supported by Oncology Rehab Partners. It is a turn-key solution that not only trains healthcare providers in the latest, evidence-based protocols for cancer rehabilitation, but also provides on-going education and support for expanding services and tracking outcomes. The STAR Program was the perfect solution for Jupiter Medical Center according to Goulding "because it is a comprehensive program, and we didn't need to reinvent the wheel."

The initial STAR Program Certification Training – 20 hours of self-paced, online lessons and four hours of hospital-based in-services – was offered to all rehabilitation providers and to oncology staff in the cancer center. Since the program was introduced in September 2010, the natural goal for completion was the end of the year. "The training went exceptionally well", said Goulding. When all designated staff completed the training as scheduled, Goulding organized the final in-service to say "thank you". "The feedback I received at the final in-service was extremely positive," she explained "It is simply a well done and thoughtfully put together training program."

A Win-Win for Providers and Patients

Jupiter Medical Center now has a team of 45 STAR certified individuals including physical therapists, speech therapists and occupational therapists as well as nurses and an oncology case manager from the Cancer Center. The therapists can now have confidence that they are using the best practices to help cancer survivors gain strength, mobility and a better quality of life. In addition, the program has helped to create a "whole patient" frame of reference, as described by Kelly Raymond, a senior physical therapist at Jupiter Medical Center. Raymond explains, "The training emphasizes the whole person, not just one aspect of care. Not only does each therapist know more about the evidenced-based treatments within their own specialty, they now know how to recognize other rehabilitation needs within other specialties. For example nutrition or sleep therapy."

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Sandra Wade, a long time cancer survivor in Palm Beach County, searched high and low to find relief from extreme fatigue and weakness. She finally found it at Jupiter Medical Center. After major surgery, 33 weeks of radiation and 8 ½ months of chemotherapy to treat Stage IV inflammatory breast cancer, Wade found it very difficult to perform her regular activities of daily living. It was only with the help of close friends and family that she was able to shower, get dressed and prepare meals. Over several years, she asked her oncologist and case manager for help, only to be told that no such help existed.

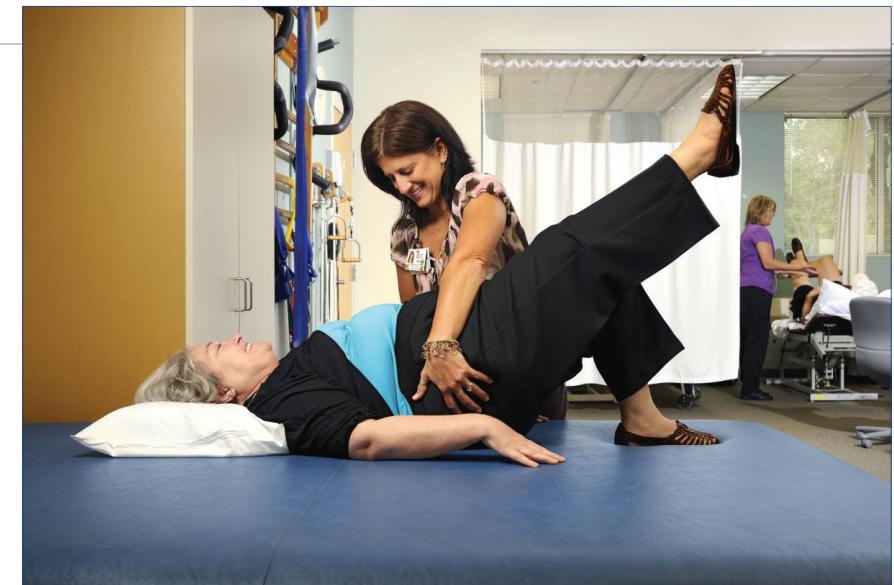
When Wade read about cancer survivorship plans and specialized rehabilitation services on the internet, she felt a huge sense of relief. She was thrilled when she saw an advertisement from Jupiter Medical Center about being STAR Program Certified, located just a few miles from her home. She recognized the STAR Program logo from her online research and called immediately to schedule rehabilitation services.

After five weeks of physical therapy, designed specifically for cancer survivors, Wade was able to return to independent living – including the ability to climb a flight of stairs. She also received treatment for her severe lymphedema and described it as the "most successful treatment in four years of lymphedema treatment." In addition, Wade has

benefited from workshops on stress management and music and laugh therapy. Of major importance to Wade, all of the rehabilitation treatments that she received were covered by Medicaid and the complementary workshops were offered at no charge.

"I feel better than I have in ten years. I'm the quarterback of my team and I am going to choose my dream team and they will all be at Jupiter Medical Center."

-Sandra Wade, cancer survivor and Jupiter Medical Center patient



Patient working with therapist at the Jupiter Medical Center