

THE ELEPHANTS OF ACUTE, ADULT NEURO-REHABILITATION IN PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

Botha, C Life Rehabilitation: Pasteur

Acute neuro-rehabilitation is an umbrella term that refers to the management of patients disabled by traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury and other disabling conditions. The primary focus of the programme is on acute time-limited intervention early, in the recovery process. The main purpose is to promote quality, holistic, integrated interdisciplinary rehabilitation, thereby achieving the following goals:

- Optimization of functional independence
- Functional solutions to compensate for functional limitations
- Education and training of the patient and their families to facilitate long term self management
- Risk management and the prevention of complications
- Resource management and networking to facilitate optimal community re-integration

Active and ongoing team interaction is a key principle underpinning the comprehensive nature of the service and to ensure that therapeutic goals are integrated and focused.

Neuro-rehabilitation remains a small business within the larger private healthcare sector but the significant growth is proof that funders, referring clinicians, patients and their families realize the positive impact of this specialized service. Rehabilitation units are very expensive to run compared to many other services within the private healthcare sector. Employment of professional teams, specialized equipment, custom designed buildings, comprehensive programmes and the high acuity of rehabilitation patients contribute to the high running costs. The efficient management of financial resources, quality management systems as well as the continual monitoring of clinical and operational standards is essential to ensure survival a very competitive market. The presentation provides an overview on the clinical-, operational-, business and management challenges of acute neuro-rehabilitation units within the private health sector.

Contact details:

Name:	Corina Botha
Address:	Life Rehabilitation: Pasteur Hospital 54 Pasteur drive Hospital park Bloemfontein
Postal Address:	PO Box 32472, Fichardtpark, 9317
Telephone:	(051) 5201234 (w) (051) 5225506 (h)
E-mail:	corina.botha@lifehealthcare.co.za