

Inpatient Rehabilitation

Kalispell, MT

About the Inpatient Rehab Unit:

- **How many beds:** 10 bed unit
- **Patient demographics:** There are a variety of patients seen, such as stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, multiple traumas, amputations, neurological disorders, and other chronic illnesses. Patients must be able to tolerate 3 hours of therapy 5 days per week and require 2 out of the 3 therapies (physical, occupational, speech).
- **Schedules and call requirements:** Nurses in this unit use self-scheduling and provide patient care 24/7. Shifts are 12 hours: day-shift from 0700-1930 and night-shift from 1900-0730.



Common treatments and skill sets/procedures:

The skill set is diverse including, managing bowel and bladder function, carrying over techniques learned by therapies, strong emphasis on education and prevention of complications, skin and wound management, spinal cord injury skills, residual limb skills, and TBI agitation management. Nurses also become knowledgeable with stroke patients and perform stroke assessments.

Qualities of an inpatient rehab nurse:

The rehab nurse must think a little differently than the acute care nurse in that the main key for rehab patients is to promote self-care. The nurse is instrumental in getting the patient ready to discharge home, assisted living, or even back to work in some cases.

A Day in the Life of Our Unit:

The routines vary from day to night. Days include getting the patient set up for therapies throughout the day, which can include speech, physical, and occupational. Additionally, nurses walk rounds with the provider on weekday mornings. Nights tend to be a little slower, allowing the patients to rest and prepare for a day full of therapies, and routines consist of laundering patients' clothes, stocking supply areas, and getting patients showered/bathed.

