
◆ THE DERBY CITY NSCIA NEWSLETTER ◆

JULY 2005

The Derby City Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association Network- Serving Kentuckiana.

Message From the President

Dear Members & Friends-

At press time we have not received information regarding our speaker for the July 18 meeting. We will likely have a speaker, but if not, a video will be shown. Food and drink will be provided at the meeting.

August's meeting will be held at 6:30 at Frazier Rehab, 4th floor dining hall.

-David Allgood

MEDICARE IMPROVES ACCESS TO POWER WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS

From CMS Office of External Affairs, May 5, 2005

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced new national coverage for mobility assistive equipment (MAE) including power wheelchairs and scooters. The new criteria, which are effective immediately, adopt a function-based determination of medical necessity. This determination looks at the ability of the beneficiary to accomplish mobility-related activities of daily living, such as toileting, grooming, and eating, with and without the use of mobility equipment such as a wheelchair. The national coverage determination (NCD) addresses the full range of MAE from simple canes and walkers to sophisticated power wheelchairs.

"The steps we are taking today are part of our efforts to ensure that seniors who need mobility help will get it promptly, and that we are paying appropriately for mobility assistive equipment," said CMS Administrator Mark B. McClellan, M.D., PhD. "The new functional criteria reflect current medical practice and mean that beneficiaries will have the freedom to

live better, more mobile lives, without the rigid 'bed or chair-confined' standard."

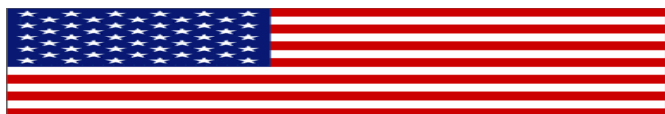
The new coverage criteria are part of a larger three-pronged Modern Mobility Initiative announced in April 2004 focused on improving coverage, payment and quality of suppliers of power wheelchairs and other mobility aides. In addition to developing new coverage criteria, CMS has developed new billing codes that will take effect January 1, 2006, to reflect the variety of wheelchairs now on the market. CMS expects to issue new quality standards for suppliers in 2006.

"This coverage policy ensures that a beneficiary's functional status and individual circumstances are considered so that the most appropriate technology for each beneficiary's personal needs is covered," said Barry Straube, M.D., CMS's Acting Chief Medical Officer and Acting Director of the Office of Clinical Standards and Quality. "It is also consistent with the medical documentation of the functional needs of the patient that should be in medical records for our beneficiaries."

CMS plans to issue additional guidance in the near future to help physicians and treating practitioners better understand the new coverage criteria and CMS's expectations about proper documentation in the medical record. Because the new functional criteria more explicitly refer to standard clinical evaluative methods, CMS expects that the medical documentation generated during the patient evaluation will more accurately be reflected in the beneficiary's medical record. It is CMS's intent that this will make the power mobility device coverage process more straightforward.

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Derby City Area Chapter
of the
National Spinal Cord Injury
Association

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Derby City Area Chapter of the N.S.C.I.A. is a membership organization for individuals with spinal cord injuries, their families, and health professionals. Founded in 1984 as a Charter Member of the N.S.C.I.A., it was incorporated under IRS Section 501 (c) 3 as a not for profit organization. The Board of Directors consists of the Officers, Past President and the Board Members At Large.

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NSCIA
DERBY CITY CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER

Editor- Barbara Davis

Contributor- David Allgood

ACCESS TO POWER CHAIRS, CONT'D

“During the course of reviewing Medicare’s policies for power mobility devices, CMS came to the conclusion that there are more accurate tools to root out fraud and abuse,” said Kimberly Brandt, Director of CMS’s Program Integrity Group. “The combination of the new NCD and the planned enhanced educational outreach by Medicare to physicians and treating practitioners, as well as to suppliers, will eliminate most honest billing errors. More accurate claim submission will allow CMS to better analyze claims data and focus claims review to target abusive billers.” ★

More information about these developments can be found at the following website: www.cms.hhs.gov/coverage_under_mobility_assistive_equipment (MAE).

From the website Emerging Horizons Travel News—ed

A TALE OF TWO INNS

By Cathy Harrington

Inns and bed and breakfasts come in all shapes and sizes. After reviewing accessible properties for nearly six years, I’ve come to realize that no two are exactly identical. For example, there are a large number of historical inns and B&Bs across the US. Unfortunately, most of them are not accessible. On the other hand, there are a growing number of innkeepers who realize that “accessible” and “historical” don’t have to be mutually exclusive terms.

Take innkeeper Melanie Gideon, for example. Her 10-room historical Captain’s Inn is located in Moss Landing, California. Says Melanie, “When we were planning our inn, we learned that many historical buildings are not accessible. Many disabled people told us they wished they could stay at historical inns, but they had problems finding accessible properties. So, during our renovation we decided to modify a downstairs room in our historical building and make it accessible.”

Today the Captain’s Inn features a ground floor accessible room in the historic Pacific Coast Steamship Company building. The First Mate room has wide doorways, level access and a 36-inch clearance on one side of the bed. The spacious bathroom has a full 5’ turning radius, a roll-in shower with a hand-held shower head and a fold-down shower seat. Other access features include grab bars in the toilet and shower areas and a roll-under sink with a lowered mirror.

The only tight spot in the room is the historic fireplace hearth which is about 2 inches high. Because of this obstacle, it’s only possible to access one side of the bed in a wheelchair. The TV is located on the far side of the bed,

(Continued On Page Four)

Refrigerator Calendar

*2005

JULY

4th - Elderly & Disabled Advisory Council Meeting

Mon 1:00-2:30 p.m.; TARC; 1000 W. Broadway; Board Room.

As this is a holiday, call for alternate date.

18th - NSCIA Derby City Area Chapter meeting 6:30 p.m. Frazier Rehab

Mon 4th floor dining hall; speaker to be announced. Call Barb or David at 589-6620.

16th - Metro disAbility Coalition Meeting; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.; PVA Office on Goss Avenue.

Sat Speaker to be announced; if questions, contact Terri Leasor at 589-6620 or at mdclouky.org

AUGUST

1st - Elderly & Disabled Advisory Council Meeting

Mon 1:00-2:30 p.m.; TARC; 1000 W. Broadway; Board Room.

15th - NSCIA Derby City Area Chapter meeting, 6:30 p.m., Frazier Rehab.

Mon 4th floor dining hall; speaker to be announced. Call David or Barb at 589-6620.

20th - Metro disAbility Coalition Meeting; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.; PVA Office on Goss Avenue.

Sat Speaker to be announced; if questions contact Terri Leasor at 589-6620 or mdclouky.org

For More Information Call
David Allgood, 502-589-6620

A TALE OF TWO INNS, CONT'D

but Melanie can move it over to the accessible side upon request. Still, this room is very nicely done access-wise, and the whole inn is decorated in a nautical theme and has some great creative touches.

The newly constructed boathouse also has three ground floor guest rooms that will work for some slow walkers. These spacious rooms are located close to the parking lot and feature wide entry doors and good pathway access. They don't have any grab bars or other bathroom adaptations; but the low-step showers are very spacious, and quite do-able for many people.

It's important to also note that some of the beds in the boathouse are quite high. In fact, these beds are made from boats that were once used in the Monterey area. For example, the bed in the Sanctuary Room is a 38-inch high marine biologist's dingy and trailer—complete with working tail lights. It's definitely one-of-a-kind.

Moss Landing is a great place for nature lovers, and Melanie is happy to offer sightseeing suggestions. A top pick for birders is the barrier-free Upper Slough Trail in nearby Kirby Park. For more information about the Captain's Inn, visit www.captainsinn.com or give Melanie a call at (831) 633-5550.

Chip Gray, General Manager of the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport, Maine, also puts a high priority on access to historical properties. Located on Main Street in downtown Freeport, the Harraseeket Inn encompasses two period buildings, which were built in 1795 and 1850, plus a new wing which was added in 1989. This 84-room inn includes two accessible rooms. Says Chip, "We have discovered that the ADA rules are actually only the tip of the iceberg."

Room 107 is located on the ground floor and features a level entry, wide doorways, good pathway access, lever handles and a lowered closet rod. The bathroom has a tub/shower combination with a hand-held shower, a roll-under sink and grab bars in the toilet and shower areas. There is a full 5' turning radius in the spacious bathroom, and a shower chair is available upon request. Room 204 has these same access features, except it has a roll-in shower in place of the tub/shower combination.

There is good access across the public areas of the inn, with elevator access to all floors, an accessible pathway through the perennial garden and a pool lift in the indoor pool. Accessible parking is available near the back entrance, and the two on-site restaurants are feature level access. And you can't beat the location of the Harraseeket Inn, as it's just a few

away from the hundreds of outlets that line Freeport's Main drag.

For more information about the Harraseeket Inn visit www.harraseeketinn.com or call (207) 865-9377. Chip and his staff are also well versed about the area attractions and are happy to make recommendations.★

The following is from NewMobility.com –ed.

CALL FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

Visual artists with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 25 are encouraged to submit slides to a contest sponsored by VSA Arts and Volkswagen. Winners will have their art become a part of a touring exhibit that will debut at the Smithsonian Institution's S. Dillon Ripley Center. Fifteen winners will be chosen and the grand prize finalist will receive \$20,000, with the runners-up receiving smaller cash prizes. The slides will be judged solely on aesthetic merit.

The theme for this year's contest is "Shifting Gears." Artists are asked to submit slides that reflect on a pivotal moment in their life that led to a greater understanding of what it means to be an artist and/or have a disability. Deadline is July 15, 2005. Applications can be downloaded from the website. For more information, including an application form, go to www.vsarts.org/x267.

From the Internet –ed

DISABILITY LAW CAN COVER FOREIGN CRUISE SHIPS

Foreign cruise ships that sail in the U.S. waters and stop at U.S. ports can be sued under a federal civil rights law for discriminating against disabled passengers, a divided Supreme Court ruled Monday (June 6).

The high court extended the reach of a key part of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in a case that has pitted disability rights advocates against the cruise industry. The law generally applies to foreign-flagged cruise ships in U.S. waters, the opinion by Justice Anthony Kennedy said.

The justices overturned a lower-court ruling that foreign-flagged cruise ships are not covered by the law barring discrimination at places of accommodation and in public transportation services.



Also from the Internet, condensed for space....

HEALTH INFORMATION: A MOUSE CLICK AWAY

By Phil Klebine

As an individual with spinal cord impairment (SCI), you may want to learn how to better manage secondary medical conditions such as pressure sores, respiratory illnesses, pain, muscle spasms, urinary tract infection, depression, sexual function and fertility. You may also want to learn about SCI related research, assistive technologies, employment, and disability organizations.

If you know what you are looking for, the Internet is the perfect place to find information. Searching the Internet is easy. You start by opening your computer's web browser such as Safari, Mozilla, or Internet Explorer; go to one of the many available search engines such as Google, Yahoo or Dogpile; and type in the topic that you want to find. Your search will end with a list of web pages offering information on that topic. You will find many of these web pages useful. However, the Internet also has a lot of misinformation, especially on SCI health. This misinformation is either out of date or simply inaccurate.

If you want reliable health information, it is essential that you know where to go. The best web sites to find reliable SCI health information are usually federally funded, which includes government organizations (.gov), most educational institutions (.edu) and some nonprofit organizations (.org). Commercial (.com) and network (.net) web sites may offer health related information, but the information may not be as reliable.

There are a number of health related governmental web sites that you may want to visit. The Department of Health and Human Services, The Social Security Administration, The National Health Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are only a few.

Many educational institutions are associated with university medical schools and hospitals. A few of these institutions are designated as Model Spinal Cord Injury System (MSCIS) and are federally funded to conduct research and disseminate information. The Spinal Cord Injury Information Network web site is managed by the University of Alabama at Birmingham MSCIS. The web site is accessed more than 1,700 times per day and offers original publications and links to other SCI related web sites. The University of Washington manages its MSCIS web site and also provides original SCI health information. Craig Hospital and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center are other MSCIS web site providers. The National Spinal Cord Injury Association is a reliable resource also.

FOR SALE!!!!



***2003 Ford F-250 lift-equipped green/gray van;** leather seats, TV, DVD player. Playstation hookup, am-fm radio. Rick Miller, 937-2245.

***Shower Chair; 2 yrs old, negotiable; 2 RoHo cushions; low profile; \$150 each; Invacare 900 Action Power Chair; 4 yrs. Old; \$600. Call 448-5296.**

***RoHo High Profile 16x16 cushions; \$160; 589-6620.**

***Cookbooks for Sale:** Recipes compiled by Chapter members; \$10:00. Call David @ 589-6620.

***Video tapes for sale.** Various topics related to spinal cord injuries. Call David Allgood or Buddy Lawson.

****If assistance is needed to pay for any of the above items, contact Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation at 1-800-327-5287 for information on loans at 5% interest to qualified candidates.*

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
PLACE AN AD IN FOR SALES,
CALL 589-6620. ASK FOR
BARB OR DAVID.**

