



Questions and Answers

What is the difference between the Stroke Recovery Center at Drake and the START program?

The Stroke Recovery Center at Drake is a continuum of stroke recovery services. Depending on the patient's condition and stage of recovery, they may need one or multiple levels of recovery care. The START Program, part of the outpatient services of the Stroke Recovery Center at Drake, is designed to provide a team assessment and plan for people who have tried standard stroke treatments in the past, either at Drake or elsewhere, and want to see if anything more can be done to further their recovery.

How can the START Program help people who have exhausted their insurance benefits?

Even if therapy benefits have been exhausted, patients can pay for services out-of-pocket. Our financial counselors would be happy to discuss possible discount programs and payment plans. In addition, some patients may qualify for research studies. The treatments provided as part of these studies are provided at no cost.

However, some patients are surprised to learn that their insurance benefits have reactivated after a certain time. For example, some providers limit the number of therapy visits in a year, but benefits reactivate in January. Other people are surprised to learn that they are covered for additional treatments if they experience a change in their condition – either an improvement that demonstrates additional progress in their recovery is possible or a decline in abilities that could be improved with additional treatment. Check with your benefit provider if you think these conditions may apply to your coverage.

Can I be a patient of the Stroke Recovery Center at Drake while living at a nursing home or while getting home health therapy services?

Insurance companies and Medicare/Medicaid will not pay for outpatient stroke therapy while you are a patient of a nursing home that provides therapy services or if you are also getting therapy services provided through a home health provider. If your finances allow, you can pay for our services out-of-pocket. You may also qualify for a research program. However, in either situation, you would need transportation to and from appointments.

Do you need to go through the START program to participate in research studies?

No. If you are only interested in research studies, you can contact the research team directly at 513-418-_____.

Will I be considered for a research study while I am participating in the START program?

Yes, you could be considered for a study while participating in other treatments, as long as those treatments are not working on the same condition as therapies. This allows us to determine the benefit of the research treatment separate from the other treatments.

Can I participate in the START Program immediately following inpatient care for stroke?

No. The START program is for those patients who have tried standard treatments but are still looking for a fuller recovery. Many patients can get a full recovery from the specialized therapies and treatments that are a routine part of the care at the Stroke Recovery Center at Drake.

How can I get a START Program assessment?

Begin by completing a START patient data form outlining the history of your stroke treatment and current condition. The team will review this to determine if further progress is likely. If so, an assessment will be scheduled. To obtain a START patient data form, call 513-418-2470.

Do all patients of the Stroke Recovery Center at Drake become inpatients?

No. Fortunately, many stroke patients are too healthy to need Drake's inpatient care. These patients can start their stroke recovery using Drake Center's specialized outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy services. These patients may be directed to the START program or research programs following therapy if needed.

What type of inpatient stroke services does Drake offer?

Drake Center offers long-term acute care (LTAC) for patients who require extended hospital level of care and meet admission criteria. Drake also offers transitional skilled nursing care, combining skilled nursing services with intensive therapeutic services to help patients maximize their recovery during the first few weeks after their stroke before returning home or to a nursing home if their condition requires it.

How can I be admitted to Drake Center's inpatient programs?

If you are a patient at another hospital and want to transfer to Drake Center after discharge, simply ask your attending physician for a referral to Drake. Your discharge planner/social worker can arrange an evaluation by a Drake Center assessment nurse. This Drake registered nurse will review your condition to make sure you meet Drake admission criteria and help to coordinate your insurance verification and transfer. You can also call the Drake assessment office directly by calling 513-418-4365.

If you are at home and are interested in coming to Drake Center for extended rehabilitation, call our referral line at 513.418.4365 or 1.800.948.0003 x 4365 to begin the process. If you are not currently receiving therapy, you will need to be evaluated by a Drake Center physician through our Outpatient Clinic before we can begin the admission process.

Is there a benefit of getting an early referral to Drake Center?

If you or a loved one is coming to Drake from an acute-care hospital, a key to being admitted to Drake is getting an early referral from your physician. In doing so, the likelihood of meeting our criteria for long-term acute care is much higher. Unfortunately, patients who fail to meet our criteria often do so because they are too advanced in their recovery.

For more information about the Stroke Recovery Center at Drake, please call 513-418-2470.