Community-Based Rehabilitation

Allen N. Lewis, Jr.¹ and Pamela H. Lewis²

¹School of Health and Rehabilitation Science,
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

²Department of Rehabilitation Counseling,
School of Allied Health Professions, Virginia
Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA

Synonyms

In vivo services; *Milieu-based services*; *Outpatient rehabilitation*

Definition

The provision of restorative or rehabilitative services targeted toward the amelioration of a disability (disability: any illness, condition, or impairment [congenital or acquired] that interferes with functioning in a major life domain) and/or the mitigation of functional limitation resultant from a disability to the maximum extent possible in a nonacute care, nonfacility-based service setting. Community-based rehabilitation services attempt to maximize the individual's ability to function "in vivo" within major life pursuits such as independent daily living and work.

Community-based rehabilitation attempts to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families. This includes meeting basic needs but also going beyond to promote inclusion and participation. Community-based rehabilitation typically involves several domains of functioning such as health, education, work, socialization, and one's sense of empowerment. Reaching a point of social acceptance in the 1970s and 1980s, the original mission of community-based rehabilitation was to offer individuals with disabilities access to programming and supports in their own home communities using local resources. Further, community-based rehabilitation ostensibly attempts to optimize the provision of rehabilitative services, equalize opportunity, reduce poverty, and promote full social inclusion.

References and Readings

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