

# Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital vs. Skilled Nursing Facility Total Joint Study



In January 2006 a case-controlled comparison between inpatient rehabilitation hospitals (IRHs) and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) for patients having total joint replacement was reported in the American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. The journal reported that patients admitted to IRHs post total joint replacement had better functional outcomes, higher discharge-to-home and shorter lengths of stay.

A number of outcome measurements were described in the report:

- Patients discharged directly to home
- Patients requiring home services post discharge
- Mean discharge locomotion FIM score
- Patients requiring a walker post discharge
- Mean discharge ambulation distance
- Mean length of stay

Because services provided by inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and skilled nursing facilities have distinct differences between them, acute vs. skilled, the results support appropriate post-acute treatment options for patients.

Walsh MB, Herbold J: Outcome following rehabilitation for total joint replacement at IRF and SNF: A case-controlled comparison. *Am J Phys Med Rehabil* 2006; 85:1-5.

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