

2. Autonomic Dysreflexia

1.1. STANDARD: All care providers will identify episodes of autonomic dysreflexia (AD) and provide appropriate intervention. Intervention will include identifying and removing noxious stimuli, providing medical care as indicated, and monitoring patient's status.

Minimum Requirements:

- Facility has an AD policy and procedure or guideline in place
- All care providers are trained to identify signs and symptoms of AD
- All care providers are trained to follow facility policy and procedure on AD
- All care providers will understand the causes of AD for prevention
- Staff competency conducted for all care providers

Recommended Resources:

- Yes, You Can! A Guide to Self-Care for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury published by the Paralyzed Veterans Association (PVA). The book can be ordered online at <http://tinyurl.com/ksa3z5e>
- Patient Education Manual (site-specific – to obtain a copy from Gaylord Hospital, contact Diana Pernigotti at DPernigotti@gaylord.org and contact Joanne Morello at Jmorello@northeastrehab.com for a copy from Northeast Rehabilitation)
- Specialized courses offered through NESCI facilities on SCI – available to outside caregivers with CEUs. The SCI Specialist course will be offered at Gaylord Hospital in early 2015. Contact Janine Clarkson at Jclarkson@gaylord.org for more information.
- Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Guide (available in English/Spanish for free) <http://tinyurl.com/qzll2gq>
- PVA Clinical Practice Guideline Acute Management of Autonomic Dysreflexia* <http://tinyurl.com/p36sff6>
- General SCI Competency at Northeast Rehabilitation Contact Joanne Morello at Jmorello@northeastrehab.com for more information

2.2 STANDARD: Refer to STANDARD 1: Patient/Family/Caregiver Teaching

Recommended Resources:

- Credit card-style AD education cards for patients from the PVA available to download at <http://tinyurl.com/gh6gmoj>
- Education cards in Yes, You Can! book The book can be ordered online at <http://tinyurl.com/ksa3z5e>
- PVA Consumer Guideline Autonomic Dysreflexia: What You Should Know* available for free download at <http://tinyurl.com/kfrobkd>

THIS TOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL ADVICE. It is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Never ignore professional medical advice in seeking treatment because of something you have read in the Toolkit. If you think you may have a medical emergency, immediately dial 911.