

# BEST PRACTICE CATALOG

Project Title: **NEUROCOGNITIVE TREATMENT READINESS PROGRAM**

Function Category:  PATIENT-FOCUSED    ORGANIZATION    STRUCTURES

Subcategory: **Care of Patients**

Heading: **Programming**

Key Word(s): **Adaptive**

Contact Person: **Maria Diets-Stover**

Telephone Number: **(805) 468-2446**

Hospital: **Atascadero State Hospital**

**Purpose:** To assist patients with gross neurocognitive deficits develop skills that will allow them to be cognitively available to participate in treatment.

**Brief Description:** Three special education teachers, one dance therapist, one speech therapist, two speech aides and two clinical psychologists deliver services to the patients in the Neurocognitive Treatment Readiness Program. Patients are scheduled to attend four days a week. They move in groups of three through four 30 minute instructional modules and one 20 minute movement module on each of the four days. The program objectives are: (1) to enhance attentional functions, (2) to compensate for memory deficits, (3) to teach basic pragmatic and language skills, (4) to provide psychoeducation on neurocognitive processing strengths and weaknesses and teach appropriate compensatory strategies, (5) to address psychological problems that can emerge secondary to traumatic brain injury, (6) to offer training to treatment staff on rehabilitation needs of their patients, (7) to provide comprehensive evaluations and (8) to teach preliteracy and literacy skills with practical applications. The Neurocognitive Treatment Readiness Program staff meet weekly to review and assess progress towards the goals and objectives.

**Selection Basis/Criteria:** A patient who is selected for the project must: (1) undergo the hospital wide screening process and the neuropsychological and speech-language assessments, (2) have a cognitive dysfunction which was identified through the assessment procedures, (3) be referred to the project for treatment by his interdisciplinary team, and (4) personally be willing to undergo cognitive rehabilitation treatment.

The following items are available regarding this Best Practice:

Photographs    Video Tape    Drawings    Manual

Other : \_\_\_\_\_

DATE SUBMITTED: **September 17, 1998**