

SPIRIT
(Charity No 1059381)

Spirit Ref No.

Report following Sponsored Visit

Date of Report	18/02/08
Details of Sponsored Person	
Name	Title: Miss

Details of Visit
Place visited Name: University Hospital, Chiang Mai Country: Thailand
Date of visit 25 th November 2007
Purposes of visit: Speaker/ Workshop leader at Conference/ Workshop

Summary Report of visit

Rehab processes	What Was observed?	What can be applied?
Acute Management	<p>Patients are nursed acutely on a different ward, and most of the Thai physios only treat the rehab patients.</p> <p>Acute management guidelines were discussed and decided upon quite quickly by the other Asian area Spinal Injuries Physios – treatment is basically the same as the UK, however they are more reliant on family and friends to carry out daily passive movements/ stretches</p>	
Rehab management - Physiotherapy	<p>There is a small basic gym in Chiang Mai, but they have a separate area for teaching wheelchair skills in, that is left set up at all times. They have a door frame with house type door handles rather than hospital doors(!), a wooden cambered area, and a stony/gravel pit. They also use a specific wheelchair proficiency test.</p> <p>General rehab skills taught, and methods used are the same as in the UK. There is a greater emphasis on ambulation – whether with incompletes doing treadmill training, or completes using calipers to mobilise in an upright position. In general, Asian countries are less developed, and less wheelchair accessible, so ambulation in some form is often easier for patients to access their home environment.</p>	<p>I would like to investigate the possibility of setting up a permanent wheelchair skills area in our hospital, but the limitations of space are a problem – perhaps in the new sports hall area we would like to fundraise for, this may be a possibility.</p> <p>I am looking into the feasibility of using the wheelchair skills proficiency test with our patients.</p> <p>It was reassuring for me, and all the participants, that whether it be in Europe or Asia, that the way spinal injury patients are treated is very much the same!</p>

Summary:

I really enjoyed the opportunity to talk at the Asian Spinal Injury Network Workshop in Thailand. I learned a lot about the cultural/ environmental differences that exist in the, quite often Third World, countries, and the extra challenges that they can produce for the Spinal Injured patient and their families. I had a lot of thanks given to me for my help running the workshops, and compiling the Treatment Guidelines, and lots of invitations to return/ visit other countries! I think it was very useful for promoting the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries also. Thank you for making this possible.

For SPIRIT use only

Date received	
Trustees Notes	
Payment	Amount.....
	Date