

# Spinal Cord Injury

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- We are home to the Northeast Ohio Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Model System, one of only 14 SCI Model Systems in the United States.
- Our entire team is specialty trained in the rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injury
- Our spinal cord injury unit provides expert care for patients who need ventilator support
- Our SCI rehabilitation program actively helps patients reintegrate into the community

At the spinal cord injury program at MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute, our goal is simple: We want to get people with SCIs back to their lives. Whatever your wish — to go back to work or school, to participate in the community, to get back to the activities you love — we're here to help. When you come to MetroHealth, you'll find:

**National Model System:** We are proud to be a National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) SCI Model System. The SCI Model System award designates MetroHealth as a hospital that provides exemplary patient care, carries out critical medical research and provides the highest level of specialty services in acute care, rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. We are among the best in the nation.

**Expert team:** Our staff is made up of doctors with specialty certification in SCI rehab. In addition, all of our nurses, psychologists, social workers and therapists also have advanced training in SCI.

**Specialized facility:** We are located on the 6th floor of the MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute, in a unit dedicated to SCI rehab. Our rooms are all specially equipped to accommodate patients with ventilators or tracheostomies.

**Ventilator weaning:** MetroHealth is the only facility in Ohio that admits ventilator-dependent SCI patients. We have the experience and the advanced technology to wean many of them off ventilator use.

**Cutting-edge treatments:** Our doctors are experienced in spasticity management to help patients regain muscle control. Our research programs focus on neurological prosthetics that restore hand, lung, bladder and lower limb function. All eligible patients are encouraged to participate in clinical trials of new treatments that may improve their quality of life.

**Community connections:** You don't leave us once you're discharged. Our patients remain in the outpatient rehabilitation program as long as necessary. We are also home to the Northeast Ohio chapter of the United Spinal Association. Members meet monthly to socialize, attend medical lectures and meet with vendors of new products for people with SCI.