

Rehabilitation in Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ACUTE REHABILITATION IN EMERGENCIES?

Rehabilitation providers work to ensure people achieve the best possible functional outcome after an injury or illness. Rehabilitation providers in EMTs also play an essential role in linking people with long term health and support needs to local services.



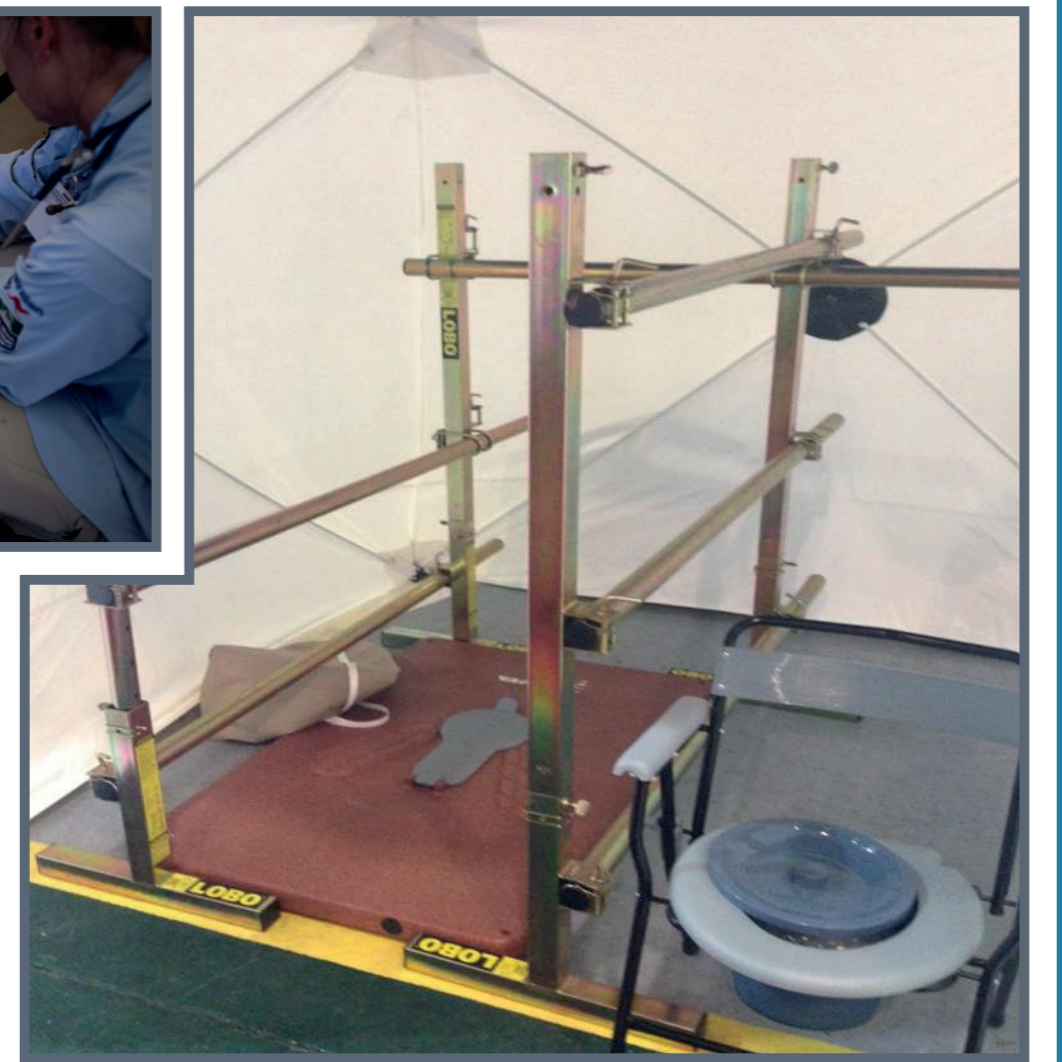
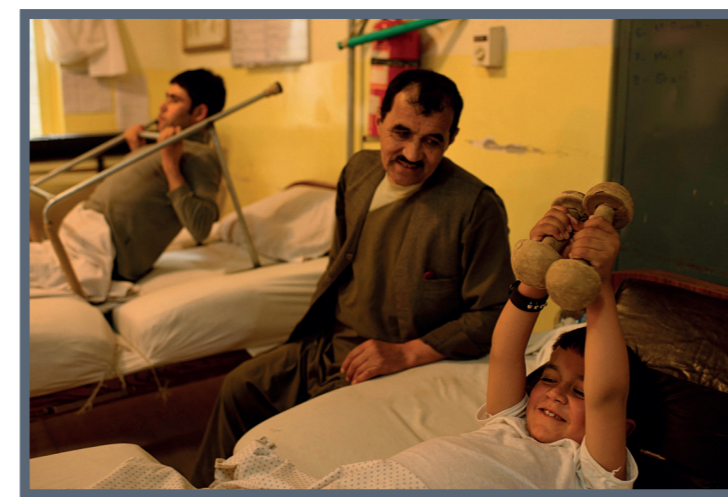
WHY INCLUDE REHABILITATION IN EMTs?

Many people who suffer an injury in a disaster require rehabilitation during the acute stages of care. Rehabilitation helps to:

- ✓ maximize the impact of surgical and other medical interventions
- ✓ reduce length of stay in hospital and help maximize patient throughput
- ✓ prevent complications, such as contractures and pressure sores
- ✓ reduce the person's need for ongoing care
- ✓ improve chances of returning to work.

PROVIDING REHABILITATION IN EMERGENCY CONTEXTS

Providing access to those with disabilities can be challenging. With ingenuity and creativity any field hospital can be designed to accommodate patients with different needs. Rehabilitation specialist should be included in the set-up of the field hospital to ensure they are as accessible as possible to people with restricted mobility, including those temporarily on crutches or in wheel-chairs.



MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REHABILITATION

Emergency Medical Teams



There are now new important standards and recommendations for the integration of rehabilitation in EMTs.

These relate to:

- ✓ inclusion of rehabilitation services in all EMT types;
- ✓ rehabilitation equipment and consumables;
- ✓ field hospital space recommendations;
- ✓ specialist care teams with rehabilitation.