How do I refer patients?

Please call the Recuperative Care Operator at

(213) 689-2131 or (213) 689-2132

If a bed is available and eligibility is confirmed, the referring agency or medical provider must complete the Recuperative Care referral form and submit the necessary ancillary information. The completed referral form and ancillary information should be faxed to the Recuperative care Unit at (213) 624-2302.

Please observe that there are certain criteria that may exclude some patients from Recuperative Care eligibility. Please call for details on exclusion provisions.

Where are the JWCH Recuperative Care Centers located?

The Weingart Center is located at

515 East 6th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90021

The Bell Shelter is located at

5600 Rickenbacker Rd.
Building 1-E
Bell, CA 90201

Who is JWCH?

JWCH Institute, Inc. is a nonprofit organization first established in 1960, providing health care services for underserved communities in Los Angeles County.

The mission of JWCH is “to improve the health status and well-being of underserved segments of the population of Los Angeles through the direct provision or coordination of health care, health education services, and research.”
What is JWCH Recuperative Care?

The Recuperative Care program was established in 1991 to address the healthcare needs of homeless individuals upon hospital discharge. Beginning with 20 beds funded by HUD, the program expanded first to 40 and then 45 beds at the Weingart Center, and most recently added 30 beds at the Bell Shelter. Recuperative Care offers all patients occupying the beds 24-hour nursing care; assistance with medications, dressing changes, and other aftercare tasks; assistance establishing eligibility for public benefits; and help securing long-term housing.

What is the purpose of the Recuperative Care Program?

After release from the hospital, most individuals still need time to recover. They may have broken bones that need to mend, dressings that need to be changed, or medications to complete. Some just need rest and to rebuild their strength.

Homelessness can considerably hamper recovery. Inadequate meals, lack of clean facilities, and inability to maintain a schedule are all factors that can turn manageable conditions into life-threatening emergencies. Homeless patients, after release back to the streets, often return to emergency rooms and must be re-admitted to hospitals. In an attempt to prevent these returns, many hospitals delay release of homeless patients for several days beyond what the standard of care normally requires.

Hospitalization costs approximately $1400 per day; by contrast, the JWCH Recuperative Care program is able to provide an appropriate environment for recovery at a fraction of that cost. Patients who have the opportunity to fully recover are more likely to follow aftercare instructions, and are less likely to need rehospitalization in the near future.

Who is eligible?

In order to be admitted to the Recuperative Care program, a patient must:

- Be homeless
- Have an acute medical illness
- Be continent
- Be ambulatory
- Be independent in the Activities of Daily Living and medication administration
- Not require IV lines, foley catheter or oxygen
- Be willing to see an LVN or Registered Nurse every day and comply with medical recommendations
- Be medically and psychologically stable enough to receive care in our Recuperative Care facility; patient must not be suicidal or homicidal
- Have a condition with an identifiable end point of care for discharge

What other benefits are there to the JWCH Recuperative Care program?

In addition to the nursing care available in Recuperative Care, the Weingart Center and Bell Shelter sites that house the program offer many other services to help break the cycle of homelessness, including housing placement, substance abuse treatment, health education, and counseling services.

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