

Making Rehabilitation Work For You.

Information about Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians.

Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians are specialist doctors trained in the health care needs of people with disability. This is a 4 year degree which is gained through the Royal Australian College of Physicians.

A Rehabilitation Medicine Physician has two roles. One is to **treat** health conditions in people with disability. Another is to **prevent** illness and possible further disability. We know that health problems can lead to increasing problems with function and participation in life.

At **disability medical** we specialize in **Neurological conditions** leading to long term disability. These conditions may include: Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, and many other Acquired Brain Injuries.

The **areas** that Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians address include: bladder and bowel management, sleep and fatigue, tracheostomy care, catheter care, PEG and PEJ feeding, spasticity, pain management, skin care, fertility, driving, working, Guardianship & Administration and mental health. Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians are interested in making sure that medications are right for the long term.

Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians are trained to work closely with your **Rehabilitation Therapists**. A Rehabilitation Medicine Physician can help the patient, their significant others and the team understand their health problems and the expected outcomes. They can help with practical plans of management to increase a person's function. A Rehabilitation Medicine Physician can also advise when referrals to Allied Health or specialist clinicians are needed. They can help with planning for the National Disability Insurance Scheme or for Independence Plans with the Transport Accident Commission.

Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians should also work closely with your **Local Doctor**. While the GP remains the first doctor consulted whenever a new problem arises, the Rehabilitation Medicine Physician is available for advice and review as needed.