Gaylord Exemplifies Expert

Patients come to Gaylord Hospital from all areas of the Northeast to experience the strength of our interdisciplinary clinical teams and our dedication to positive patient outcomes.

Gaylord’s accreditations include:

- The only CARF accredited Stroke Specialty Program in CT for inpatient and outpatient care
- The only transitional living facility for stroke and brain injury survivors in CT
- Two Medical Directors who are specialty board certified in Brain Injury
- Specialty rehab program for Young Stroke Patients
- The only Ekso Bionics in CT

Maintaining these specialty accreditations demonstrates our commitment to providing the ultimate in patient experience and care as a leader in the field of rehabilitation and medical care.

DISCHARGE LOCATION BY AGE GROUP
All Stroke Graduates Last Five Years

EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION EXCEEDS THE BENCHMARK:
Gaylord Hospital staff satisfaction 81% vs. National rate of staff satisfaction of 64%.
Out of the Blue

Chris Cartland, age 34 and a Type 1 diabetic, was at home with his family on the evening of June 11, 2015, when he began having a headache and felt dizzy and uncoordinated. These were common symptoms of low blood sugar so Chris did a blood test. But his blood sugar was fine. Just weeks before, his doctors had told him he was in good health, so he wasn’t worried. “But over the next half hour, I lost my ability to speak,” Chris said. “My wife, Jennifer, thought we should go to the ER but I vigorously waved her off and pulled the stubborn husband card. The possibility of a stroke never crossed my mind.” Instead he struggled up the stairs to bed. “I had no balance and no strength in my leg,” he explained. “My wife was adamant that I go to the hospital but I again said no.” The next morning Chris’ face was drooping and his right arm had limited motion. Jennifer thought he’d had a stroke and called 911.

After many tests at the hospital it was determined that Chris had suffered a stroke in the left pontine portion (the pons) of his brain. The pons is the lowest part of the brain stem that connects to the top of the spinal cord. It contains many nerve bundles that transmit movement and sensory messages between the brain and body and it is involved in hearing, taste, balance and the regulation of breathing and deep sleep.

When the stroke was confirmed, Chris felt panicked and worried about what would happen to his family. His next emotion was anger, which he harnessed to fuel his recovery. Just four days after the stroke, he was transferred to Gaylord for rehab in the Young Stroke Program. This program is a faster paced therapy program that is based on the patient’s level of function, rather than age, at the time of the stroke.

Released from inpatient just two weeks later, Chris continued with outpatient therapy at Gaylord through September.

“I had the best possible recovery,” he said. “I had fantastic therapists, from Stephanie in Speech, and Heidi in OT, to Greg in PT. They are my rock stars!”

“I am about 98% back to normal,” he said. “You would never know I had a stroke. As much grief as this caused me, it also helped me re-evaluate the things that were most important to me.” Grateful for his care at Gaylord, Chris wanted to give back, so he initiated a charitable giving foundation through his employer, the Kaman Specialty Bearings and Engineered Products, a division of Kaman Corporation. The foundation has since donated to Gaylord and Kaman is now a sponsor of the Gaylord Gauntlet, where Chris volunteered last year. “I realize I was pretty lucky on the severity and placement of my stroke, and I am thankful for the awesome care I got at Gaylord.”

Chris enjoys a visit with his daughters in the Japanese Garden during his inpatient stay. He successfully completed Gaylord’s Young Stroke Program.

www.gaylord.org