



Another Northeast Rehab success story from Beth Israel Hospital...

Name: Paul Cleworth
Diagnosis: C4-C5 Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury
Case Manager: Ann Wiggin
Admitted on: September 18, 2011

Paul, age 43, was involved in a diving accident in his swimming pool in July resulting in a spinal cord injury with paraplegia in his lower extremities and minimal movement in his upper extremities. He was transferred from Portsmouth Regional Hospital to Beth Israel Hospital. Without health insurance, Paul was in need of financial assistance. His case manager single handedly secured a grant for Paul through the Ray Tye Foundation whose charter and mission is dedicated to funding in-hospital life saving medical treatment and surgeries for those who do not have medical insurance, and for which no other financial resources are available. Additionally, Paul's occupational therapist was able to locate a much needed refurbished motorized wheelchair for his use.

Upon discharge for the BI, Paul was admitted to NRH at Pease for his extensive rehabilitative needs. With the help of Paul's 'never give up' attitude and remarkable work ethic, he has made significant improvements in all areas of functional mobility. When admitted, he required maximal assistance to maintain upright posture in sitting and was dependent for transfers and bed mobility. Also, he had not yet developed the compensatory right reactions that are so important for patients with spinal cord injuries.

Currently, he is able to maintain static long sits for greater than 10 minutes at a supervised level. He is also able to take moderate excursions outside his base of support, which is aided by his new knowledge and his ability to use compensatory righting reactions such as head and arm movements. Additionally, he is no longer dependent for all bed mobility secondary to his improved shoulder strength. Paul has also worked very hard to become as independent as possible regarding his eating and grooming abilities.

Overall, Paul has been an inspiration to all of us. Over 5 weeks, the words "I can't" have never been uttered from him, despite the challenges and goals he has faced. The combination of his work ethic and the knowledge that the staff has provided him has allowed him to be successful. He has a long road ahead of him; however NRH has provided him with a great foundation. Paul is currently preparing for his discharge to home.

About his wedding held at NRH Pease on October 23rd

*"I was able to put the wedding ring
on my wife myself!"*

