Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital
Amputee Program - 2012

Cardinal Hill's Amputee Program serves patients who have undergone amputation of one or more extremities. Accredited by CARF, this signature program strives to help each patient achieve maximum function. The amputation of a limb, whether through illness or accident, is an emotionally and physically traumatic experience for the patient and the family. The team of caring professionals creates an atmosphere that supports the amputee patient and the family's recovery and progress.

Amputee patients served in 2012: 103
Ages of our Amputee patients:

24 and under:	1.0%
25 to 49 years:	18.4%
50 to 64 years:	48.5%
65 and older:	32.0%

The Amputee Team
A transdisciplinary approach to care ensures that the patient's progress is as smooth as possible.

In addition to the Patient, Family and Caregiver, members of the treatment team may include:

- Physician
- Rehabilitation Nurse
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Case Manager/Social Worker
- Prosthetist
- Psychologist
- Pharmacist
- Dietician
- Chaplain

Appropriate consultations are provided as needed.

Individualized Care
The Amputee Program at Cardinal Hill is broken down into a three-phase approach:

Phase I: usually requires an inpatient stay of 7 to 10 days. The program is provided by staff specially trained to treat all of the patient's post-amputation needs. The goals of this initial phase are wound healing and instructions in self-care skills, wheelchair or walker skills and home safety. The treatment team provides therapy, and instructs the patient and family in wound care, desensitization techniques and residual limb shaping to prepare for future prosthetic use.

Phase II: is an outpatient period during which, ideally, the patient is followed in Amputee Clinic. Healing and shaping are monitored and a prosthetist is consulted if the situation is appropriate.

Phase III: begins with the completion of the prosthesis. For lower extremity amputees, walking with the prosthesis begins at this time. Final adjustments are made to the prosthesis as gait training progresses under the direction of the patient's primary Therapists and Physiatrist. Functional tasks such as bathing, transfers, home management and dressing with the prosthesis are learned. Phase III may also be provided on an inpatient basis and length of stay may vary.

Integrated Treatment Plan
The rehabilitative plan of care after an amputation may include any or all of the following services depending on phase:

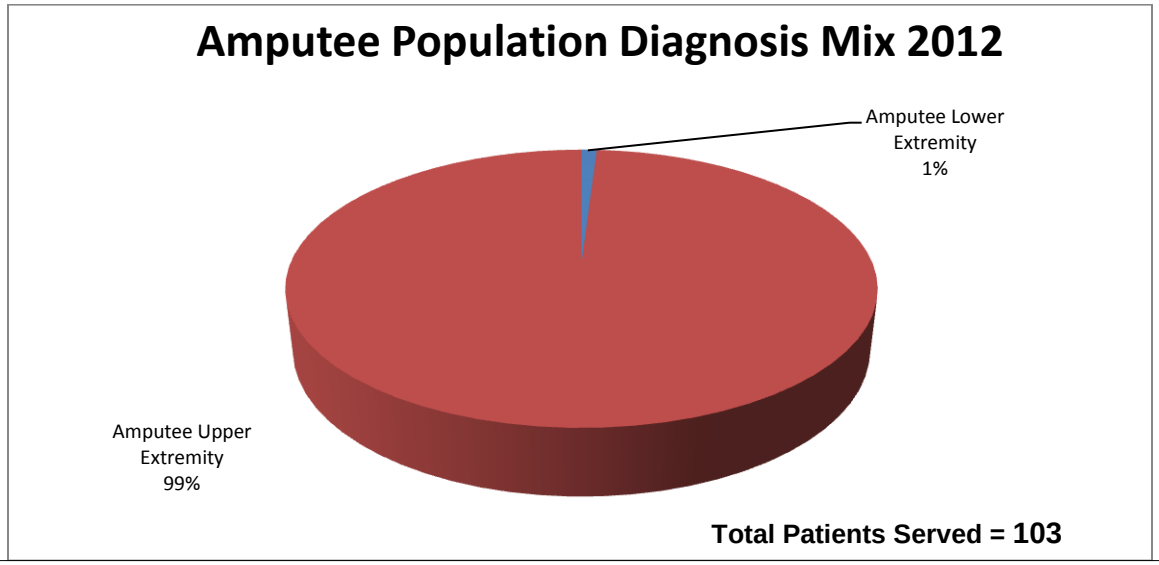
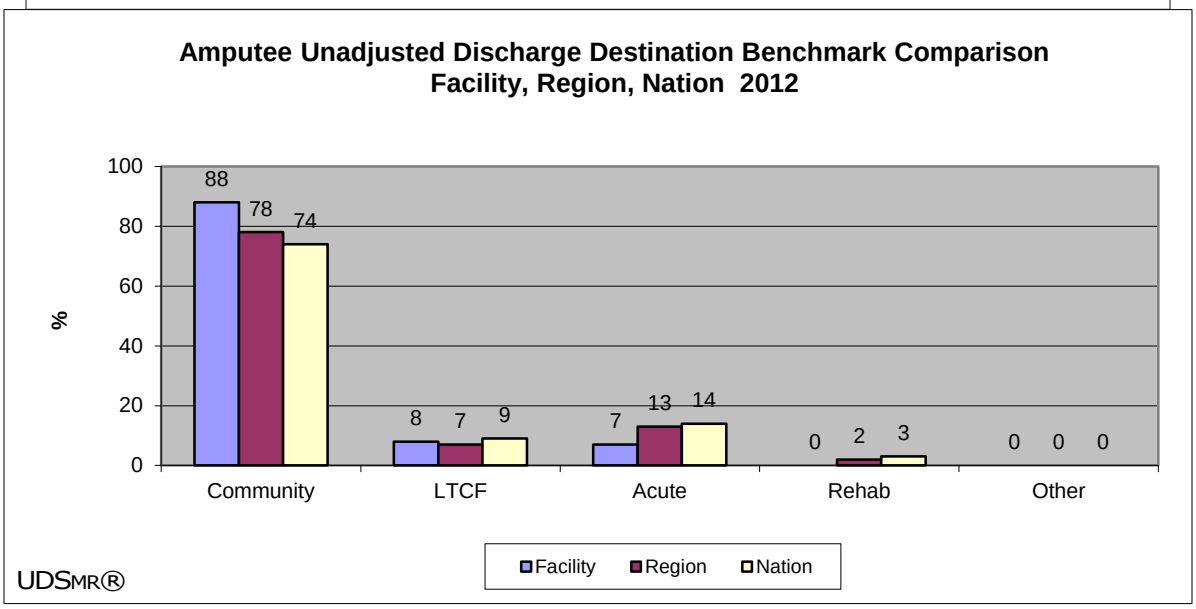
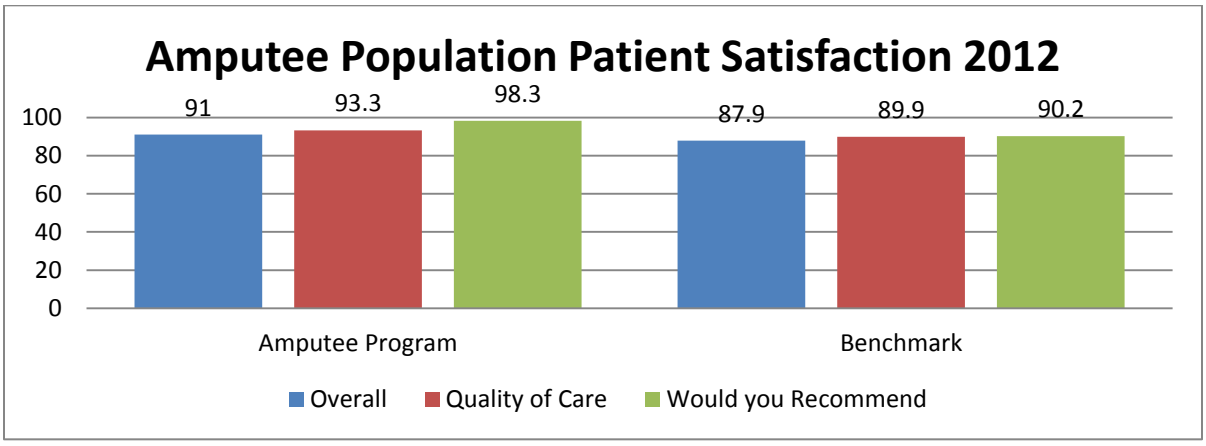
- Care by a Physiatrist
- Physical, Occupational & Speech-Language Therapy
- Wound Care
- Adjustment counseling
- Sexuality counseling
- Community reentry activities
- Driving evaluation
- Home management training
- Aquatic therapy
- Vocational evaluation
- Equipment evaluation
- Evaluation of home & work environments
- Peer support program
- Community referrals

Intensity of Services
A rehabilitation physician is available 24 hours a day and reviews each patient's care daily. Rehabilitation nurses are also available 24 hours a day and review across shifts. Unless there are medical problems, patients receive three or more hours of therapy a day, Monday through Friday. Patients may receive additional therapy on the weekend, when indicated.

Length of Program
The average patient stay is 12 days; however, the length of stay varies depending on the patient's needs.

Family Involvement
Cardinal Hill believes that family support is a key ingredient to a successful rehabilitation experience following an amputation. We encourage the family to be an active participant in the patient's program as he/she works to achieve functional goals. We provide individual counseling, support groups and family education to prepare caregivers to deal with the patient's new needs.

Follow-Up Services
The caring and support an amputee receives at the inpatient level at Cardinal Hill does not end with discharge. Those receiving home care or outpatient treatment are followed in the Amputee Clinic, where the physician and therapist may recommend changes in the patient's home program, therapy services or equipment. Referral to other Cardinal Hill Outpatient Therapy Services, to local prothetists or to agencies in the patient's home community may be made.

For More Information
For more information about Cardinal Hill's Amputee Program, call us at (859) 254-5701.

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