



RehabMatters

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Jake Rodriguez

A Great Guy Gets A Great Outcome!

By Ann M. Ciotoli

Public Relations Coordinator,
HealthSouth Hospitals of Pittsburgh

Jake Rodriguez, a twenty-five year old nursing graduate from Waynesburg University, was enjoying a beautiful summer day in June when he was injured after hitting his head on the side of a swimming pool. He lost consciousness and was immediately transported by ambulance to Pittsburgh's Allegheny General Hospital. Jake's girlfriend Cat who is also a nurse at Children's Hospital, recognized that he had probably suffered a brain injury.

"Jake was 'coming to' in the emergency room and the staff felt he would just need some close observation overnight," said Cat. "But he had significant weakness in his left arm and leg, and I knew there was more going on." After running several tests, doctors confirmed a brain stem injury and Jake remained at Allegheny General for over a week before his admission to the Brain Injury Program at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Sewickley.

Initially, Jake began to show good progress in his physical, occupational and speech/cognitive therapies, but then began suffering seizures after only one week in rehab, this requiring a readmission to Allegheny General. His medications were regulated and the seizures were controlled. Jake returned to HealthSouth and continued with his therapies and was discharged home on July 28, 2010 using only minimal assistance from a pair of crutches.

"When Jake was first seen by us, he was only able to stand for ten seconds in the parallel bars and needed almost complete assistance from his therapist and a second person for safety," said Scott Bleakley, PT. "He made fantastic gains and now is working towards walking without any device. Jake was a great patient and was extremely motivated. He spent a lot of time talking with other patients and sought out those that needed someone to talk with," said Bleakley.

Jake has returned to his family's home in Sarasota, Florida where he will continue with outpatient therapy at HealthSouth. Jake also plans to sit for his nursing boards in the near future and pursue his dream to move to Denver.

"All of the therapists were great at HealthSouth Sewickley," Jake said. "They know what they are doing and are very motivating. I want to especially thank Scott, Ross, Amber and Lisa. I am glad I chose HealthSouth for my rehab and am getting my life back."



Lisa Wonderling, OT, Jake Rodriguez, Scott Bleakley, PT

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