

AMRPA 2026 Fall Educational Conference & Expo

Sunday, September 27, 2026

9:00 AM	Registration Opens
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	IRF Boot Camp
11:00 AM - 4:30 PM	eRehabData Expert Analytics and Operations Symposium
12:30 - 1:00 PM	Networking Lunch for IRF Boot Camp/ eRhabData Symposium
2:30 - 2:45 PM	Afternoon Networking Break for IRF Boot Camp/ eRehabData Symposium
12:30 PM - 12:45PM	Transportation from Marriott Downtown Austin to Dell Children's Medical Center
1:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Pediatric Rehab Workshop at Dell Children's Medical Center
4:15 PM - 6:00 PM	Pediatric Rehab Dell Tour and Reception
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Pre-Conference Reception (On-site for IRF Boot Camp and eRehabData Symposium)
6:00 PM - 6:45 PM	Transportation from Dell Children's Medical Center to Marriott Downtown Austin
6:00 – 9:00 PM	AMRPA Board of Directors Dinner

Monday, September 28, 2026

7:00 AM	Registration Opens
7:30 – 8:00 AM	AMRPA Board of Directors Breakfast
8:00 - 11:00 AM	AMRPA Board of Directors Meeting
10:00 AM	Exhibit Hall Opens
10:00 am -10:45 am	Sponsored Session by Opmed: Solving the Rehab Operations Puzzle: From Complexity to Intelligent Operations Dr. Mor Brokman Meltzer, CEO & Co-Founder, Opmed
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Networking Lunch
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Fund for Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation (FAIR Fund) Membership Meeting
12:00 - 12:45 PM	Conference Welcome and Medical Rehabilitation Patient Perspective Presented by TIRR Memorial Hermann, CARF International and the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) Intro: Rhonda Abbott, Senior Vice President and CEO of TIRR Memorial Hermann; Chair, AMRPA Board of Directors Moderator: Terrence Carolan, MSPT, MBA, Managing Director of Medical Rehabilitation and Aging Services, CARF International
12:45– 1:30 PM	Transitioning to 2027 – The Health Care Landscape and Possible Impact of Midterm Elections: A Fireside Chat with Former HHS Secretary Dr. Donna Shalala Former HHS Secretary Dr. Donna Shalala
1:30 – 2:15 PM	Rehabilitation 2.0: Transformational Care with Artificial Intelligence Jason Peoples, Director of Technology & Innovation, Mary Free Bed

2:15 - 3:00 PM	Review Choice Demonstration – The Program Oversight Perspective
	Amy Cinquegrani, Director, Division of Payment Methods & Strategies, Provider Compliance Group, CMS Marc Duerden MD, Medical Director, Jurisdiction E, Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC Jessica Hicks RN, MSN, Manager, Prior Authorization, Novitas Solutions, Inc. and First Coast Service Options, Inc. Sameer Siddiqui, MD, Contractor Medical Director, Novitas Solutions, Inc. Cassie Mills, BSN, RN, Director, Medical Review, IRF & HH Review Choice Demonstrations, Palmetto GBA Mary E. Dillon, MD, Officer, Chief Medical, Palmetto GBA Cassie Mills, BSN, RN Medical Review Director, Palmetto GBA
3:00 – 3:20 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors sponsored by Ernest Health

Concurrent Tracks	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6	Track 7	Track 8
3:20 – 4:05 PM	Demonstrating the Value of Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities: Early Insights from a Scoping Review and Gap Analysis	Supporting the Next Step: Creating a Community Resource Framework for IRU Patients	From Clinician to Business Leader: Financial Literacy Every Inpatient Rehabilitation Program Director Needs	Navigating Federal Appropriations and Earmarks: What to Submit, How to Submit, and Why It Matters	Circuits to Continence: A Team Based Approach to Neurogenic Bowel and Bladder in Pediatric and Adolescent Spinal Cord Injury	Bridging the Gap: A Structured Approach to Mentorship and Clinical Support for SLPs in Complex IRF Practice	Continuing the Collaborative Effort: Progressing Partnership Between Therapy and Nursing Disciplines to Achieve Ongoing Nursing Mobility Competency	Optimizing Upper Limb Amputee Rehabilitation: A Longitudinal, Interdisciplinary Occupational Therapy Model Across the Continuum of Care
	Emily Rosario, PhD, Casa Colina Hospital & Centers for Healthcare; Troy Hillman, AMRPA	Arian Khoshgowari, DO, Meilani Mapa, MD, CMQ, and George Beshara, MD; Broward Health North	Scott Butcher, MBA, Hospital Corporation of America (HCA); Ron Loweke, MHA, CSSGB, CPHQ, HCA Healthcare	Laura Friedel, MA, Alston & Bird LLP	Alissa Atisme, OTR/L, TIRR Memorial Hermann; Rachel Leppo, PhD, TIRR; Deanna, Bennett, BSN, RN, CRRN, TIRR Memorial Hermann	Kate Armstrong, CCC-SLP and Mary Van Essen, MA, CCC-SLP, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital	Kaitlyn Resutek, DPT, CSRS, MPMC and Catherine Thresher, DNP, RN, MEDSURG-BC, PCCN, CRRN, NPD-BC, CBIS, Hartford Healthcare	Laura Gosselin, OT, OTR, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
4:15– 5:00 PM	Bridging the Gap: Implementing an Acute Rehabilitation Unit Within a Co-Located LTACH to Address Rising Acuity and Post-Acute Access Barriers	Leading with Purpose: Structured Leader Rounding to Elevate Patient Experience, Satisfaction, and Employee Engagement	Cost Measurement in Inpatient Rehabilitation: Patient Level Cost Modeling for Evaluating Clinical Quality Initiatives	OIG Report Take-Aways and IRF Strategy on Medicare Audits and Appeals	“Rehab Olympics” - A Tool to Improve Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Education, and Hands-on skills on an IRU with Friendly Competition	Confidence Under Construction: Building Rehab Skills through Structured Simulation	Discharge is Never the End Point: Reimagining Rehabilitation Beyond the Hospital	Strategic Team Approaches to Bladder Management

[illegible]

	Artificial Intelligence in Rehabilitation Jason Peoples, Director of Technology & Innovation, Mary Free Bed Building a Strong Interdisciplinary Team Chloe Slocum, Director of Health Policy / Associate Chair for Quality, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital Business Development Janet Herbold, SVP of Post Acute Operations, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital Joyal Pavey, VP of Mary Free Bed Advisory Group & John F. Butzer Center for Research & Innovation, Mary Free Bed Grand Rapids Certifications Natasha Woolery, Director of Business Development, Post Acute Services, HCA Healthcare Employee Engagement, Recruitment & Retention Johnny Harrison, Regional Vice President, HCA Legislative & Regulatory Robert G. Larrison Jr., President, Atrium Health (Carolinas Rehabilitation), Kate Beller, President, AMRPA Nursing TBD Pediatric Rehabilitation Cindi Hobbes, PT, MSPT, International Pediatric Rehabilitation Collaborative (IPRC) Jackie Bultman, Director of Inpatient Rehab, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Prior Authorization Emily Green Conrad, Director of Government Relations and Regulatory Policy, AMRPA Tracey Nixon, Compliance Officer, Nobis Rehab Partners Quality Karl Sandin, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Creighton University School of Medicine Rehabilitation Physicians Sandeep Singh, CMO SVP of Medical Affairs, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital Malav Shah, Faculty Physician, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital Review Choice Demonstration Nate Miller, SVP of Operations, ClearSky Health Tory Hillman, Director of Quality and Health Policy, AMRPA Transitions to IRF from Acute Care Alberto Esquenazi, Chief Clinical Officer, MossRehab Kara Williams, Nurse Manager, Inpatient Rehabilitation, Mary Free Bed at Covenant HealthCare Unit Managers Michelle Marshina, Program Director, MossRehab	
9:00 – 9:30 AM	State of the Association & AMRPA National Leadership Excellence Award Rhonda Abbott, Senior Vice President and CEO of TIRR Memorial Hermann; Chair, AMRPA Board of Directors	
9:30 – 9:45 AM	AMRPA Edward A. Eckenhoff Memorial Award Anthony Cuzzola	
9:45 – 10:30 AM	AMRPA Legislative & Regulatory Updates Kate Beller, JD, President, AMRPA Emily Green Conrad, Director of Government Relations and Regulatory Policy, AMRPA Troy Hillman, Director of Quality and Health Policy, AMRPA	
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors sponsored by Casa Colina Hospital & Centers for Healthcare	
11:00 – 11:45 AM	AHA/ASA 2026 Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery Guideline	

	Lorie Gage Richards, PhD, OTR/L, FAHA, FAOTA, University of Utah Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies Lauren Shapiro, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Stroke Rehabilitation Program, Brooks Rehabilitation Joel Stein, MD, Simon Baruch Professor and Chair, Department of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons; Professor and Chair, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine; Physiatrist-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital							
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Networking Lunch - Sponsored by Neuro Rehab VR							
Concurrent Tracks	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6	Track 7	Track 8
1:15 – 2:00 PM	Breaking the Bottleneck: A Cross-Continuum Model to Unlock Stroke Rehabilitation Throughput and Capacity	Ambiguous Loss in Brain Injury- The Impact of Unresolved Grief During Rehabilitation	If Taylor Swift Ran a Rehab Hospital: Leadership Lessons from a Superstar	IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) and Policy Update	Comparative Analysis of Therapy Dosage in Pediatric Inpatient Rehabilitation: Impact of Cancer Diagnosis on PT, OT, and SLP Interventions	Utilizing Telehealth Technology to Drive TEAM Model Hospital Outcomes	Turning Questions into Change: A Hands-On Approach to Evidence-Based Practice	Early Orthotic Intervention in Inpatient Rehabilitation: A Team-Based Model to Accelerate Functional Recovery
	Teresa Hayes, MSW, Poonam Saraf, DPT, NCS, and Amy Richards, MS, CCC-SLP, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network Hospitals	Anna Teodorczyk, Licensed Social Worker, Rehab Care Coordinator Supervisor and Arielle Fallon, MS, OTR, CBIS, Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute	David Storto, MA, Storto Healthcare Strategies	Mary Ellen DeBardleben, MBA, MPH, Encompass Health	Stephanie Schepppmann, MSOT, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta	Suzanne Quillen, RN, CNP, MPA; Maureen Arias, RN; and Chris Diguette, Ernest Health	Jamie D'Ausilio, DNP, RN and Lisa Vlamakis, RN, CRRN, Intermountain Medical Center	Lyndzie Motcheck, MS, Mary Free Bed Grand Rapids; Brittany A. Weeks, Certified Orthotist, Mary Free Bed Orthotics and Prosthetics + Bionics
2:10 – 2:55 PM	Implementing a Learning Health System in Inpatient Rehabilitation: A Community-Academic Partnership Model	Defining Clinical Excellence: A Structured Career Progression Framework for Rehabilitation Nursing	Using Negotiation Analysis to Improve Operations, Employee Engagement, and Risk Awareness	Review Choice Demonstration (RCD) Participant Perspective Panel	Going the extra breath: Speech-Language Pathology and Physical Therapy collaboration to improve breath support and postural control in adolescent spinal cord injury	Homeward Bound: Improving Community Discharge Rate from IRF in Medicare Patients	Implementing a Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program (CUSP) in Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation: Building a Culture of Safety and Zero Harm	Enhancing Collaboration Between Case Management and Therapy: A Director's Guide to Improving Outcomes and Transitions of Care

	Joshua Startup, MD, University of Michigan Health System; Emine Poyraz, MD, University of Michigan; Kelly Chan, PT, MPT, Chelsea Hospital	Melissa Kaas, BSN, RN; Jolene Massey, BSN, RN; and Sonia Zafra, MSN, RN, CRRN, University Of Utah Health	Chloe Slocum, MD, MPH, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital	Chantal Kwiatkowski, DPT, and Samantha Kauffman, MS, OTR/L, MRMC, CLT, CSRS, CBIS-T, CNS, Lehigh Valley Health Network; Maria Lomba, MD, Ernest Health; Barbara Mohr, MHA, PT, EnduraCare Acute Care; Ariel Ketchersid, MHA, Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation	Emily Klein, PT, DPT, TIRR Memorial Hermann; Kiana Gardner, M.A., CCC-SLP, TIRR Memorial Hermann; Randi L. Thompson, MBA, BSRC, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS, RCP, Memorial Hermann Health System, and Sabrina Filoteo, MA, CCC-SLP, UT Health Pediatric Movement Disorders Center	Lauren Hofmann, PT, DPT, Northwestern Medicine Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital	Stacey Schaab, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, CPHQ, CJCP, GERO-BC; D'andra Fortune, BSBA, BSN, RN, CRRN; and Charity Brown, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CCRN, Inova Mt. Vernon Hospital	Hannah Gresham, MA, CCC/SLP, CBIS, Ochsner Rehabilitation Hospital; Amanda Stumbo, RN, CCM, Select Medical
2:55 – 3:20 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors							
3:20 – 4:05 PM	Differences in Care and Outcomes between MA and traditional Medicare during and after IRF Stay	Building Safer Rehabilitation Hospitals: Implementation and Evaluation of a Workplace Violence Prevention Toolkit	QI Squared: Advancing Organizational Quality Improvement Through a Culture of Inquiry, Alignment, and Impact	AI - Artificial Intelligence or Accurate Information - the key to compliance in IRF	If You Build It, They Will Come... and Stay: Growing Pediatric Rehab Census Through Strategy, Not Chance!	Implementing a Targeted Team Approach to Preventing Pressure Injury with a Focused Interdisciplinary Call to Action	Should Exercise Physiologists be Part of the Interdisciplinary Rehabilitation Team to Increase Exercise Intensity to Promote Improved Outcomes? Are Exercise Physiologists Associated with Greater Functional Gains and Shorter Length of Stay in Inpatient Rehab?	Improving Stroke Transition Outcomes: A Structured Post-Discharge Follow-Up Program from Inpatient Rehabilitation to Home
	Amol Karmarkar, PhD; Sheltering Arms; Amit Kumar, BPhT, MPH, PhD, University of Utah; Jon Cook, PT, MBA, Rehabilitation Hospital of Northern Arizona	Shayne Perkovich, MHA, M.S. CCC-SLP and Christina Masters, BSN, RN, CRRN, Ernest Health	Jacob Williams, PhD and Juliette Lowe, BSN, RN, CWON, CLSSWB, TIRR Memorial Hermann	Jane Snecinski, FACHE, MBA, Post Acute Advisors	Kenneth Ngo, MD, FAAPMR, FACHE; Stephanie Judycki, OTD, OTR/L; Steven Walczak, PT, DPT, PCS, Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital	Shari Scheider, PT DPT CWS MBA and David Poss, MBA, MSN, CRRN, Hospital Corporation of America (HCA)	Elizabeth Hartzog, MS, OTR/L; Victoria Zangotsis, ACSM-CEP; and Dana Ravaioli, MS, ACSM-CEP, Atrium Health, Carolinas Rehabilitation	Michelle Marshina, OTD, OTR/L, Jefferson Moss Magee Rehabilitation

4:15-5:00 PM	Right Patient, Right Place – Understanding Medicare Advantage Plans and advocating for patient’s admission to Inpatient Rehabilitation	Fueling Success: Measuring the Impact of Positive Energy on Program Evaluation Model (PEM)	You are not Alone - Manager Burnout & Caregiver Engagement	Updates from CARF International: Artificial and Augmented Intelligence, Easing the Burden of Accreditation, the Impact of Accreditation on Key Performance Indicators, and Disorders of Consciousness Specialty Program Standards	The PI Playbook: Driving Outcomes in Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital	Transforming Culture: Interdisciplinary Falls Prevention for Improved Patient Safety	Bridging the Confidence Gap: Enhancing Discharge to Home through Early and Frequent Family Training	The Readmission Reset: Team Powered, Evidence Based Strategies with Real Results
	Kara Simpson, MPT and Hailey DeGuzman, NA, Ernest Health	Corina Gonzalez, OTR, MOT, CLT, UDS MR® IRF PPS Certified, Priscilla Espinoza, BSN, RN, and Erica Labasbas, OTR, UDS MR® IRF PPS Certified, Rio Grande Regional Hospital	Cara Greenwald, DPT, NCS, Intermountain Health	Terrence Carolan, MBA, MSPT and Michael Connolly, DO, CARF International	Susan Maltser, DO; Kelly Paniagua, RN, BSN, MHA; Angela Ciriame, OTR/L; and Kelly Atkins, M.S., CCC-SLP, Northwell Health	Erin Kuerbitz, CRRN and Brandon Peer, PT, DPT, CBIS, UNC Health	Kate Turner, MS, CCC-SLP, Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital	Alicia Ancarrow, MSPT, MHA and Shannon Tucker, MS SLP, MBA, Hospital Corporation of America (HCA)
5:15 – 6:30 PM	Interactive Poster Presentations							
6:30 – 7:30 PM	Networking Reception with Exhibitors sponsored by Bioness Medical							

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

8:00 AM	Registration & Exhibit Hall Opens
7:00 – 8:00 AM	AMRPA Education Committee Meeting & Breakfast
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast in General Session Hall
8:00 – 8:45 AM	Forecasting the Future of Medicaid Steven M. Perlin, Senior Vice President, LS Point, LLC Zach Gaumer, Vice President, Health Policy, Bipartisan Policy Center
Concurrent Tracks	Track 1 Track 2 Track 3 Track 4 Track 5 Track 6 Track 7 Track 8

8:55 – 9:40 AM	Eighteen-year Trends in Motor Recovery During Inpatient Rehabilitation After Ischemic Stroke	Promoting Dignity and Safety: How We have Delivered Over a Decade of Restraint-Free Rehabilitation Care	Creating a Telemedicine Follow Up System for Post Stroke Patients Discharged into the Community	A Clearer View of Care: Dashboarding GG Self Care, GG Mobility, and Performance Indicators in Rehab	Strengthening the Pediatric Care Continuum through a Strategic Liaison Model	The Interdisciplinary Approach to Wound Care in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Setting	Optimizing Length of Stay Opportunities for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Patients through Enhanced Provider Documentation	Navigating Uncertainty: Innovative approach to promote emergence from disorders of consciousness state
	Elizabeth Larkin, PT, DPT, PhD(c); Abdulaziz Bako, MBBS, MPH, PhD; and Farhaan Vahidy, PhD, MBBS, MPH, FAHA, TIRR Memorial Hermann	Mitchell Renninger, MSN, RN, CRRN, NE-BC and Jolene Klotz, MSN, RN, CRRN, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital	Sylvia Duraski, MS-ANP, CBIS, SCRn, FARN, CRRN, Nurse Practitioner, Northwestern Medicine Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital and Jolene M. Berres, RN, BSN, Clinical Operations Coordinator, Regional Medical Group, Northwestern Medicine	Caitlin Wright, OTR/L and Haily Cook, PT, DPT, Sheltering Arms Hospital	Colleen Lawson, OTR/L, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital; Teresa Hayes, MSW, LICSW, Mass General Brigham Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital	Reece Dawson Beeler, MS, RD, LD, CNSC; Ashley Dionne McCluney, RN, BSN; and Kali Anne Junker, MBA, RN, BSN, ACM, Ernest Health-Spartanburg Rehabilitation Institute	Clifford Monda, DO, MS, Ernest Health, Inc.	Uzair Hammad, DPT, NCS, ATP and Daniela Anica, MD, Orlando Health; Sean Coad, PsyD, Orlando Health Advanced Rehabilitation Institute
9:50 – 10:35 AM	People and Process: How to Maintain a 96% Occupancy Rate for Three Consecutive Years in a 25 Bed Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit	From Smart Hospital Room to Smart Home: Preserving Independence After Discharge Through a Unified Access Platform	Maximizing Value and Innovation in Rehab Technology: Strategies for Effective Vendor Collaboration and Continuous Improvement	From Probe to Payment: A Collaborative, Multi-Prong Approach to Successfully Navigating the TPE Process	Improving on-boarding and clinical growth for therapists by creating training based on stratification of pediatric cardiac complexity	Cancer Rehabilitation: An Integrative Approach to Survivorship	HD and PD in the setting of Inpatient Rehab and Benefits to an underserved population	Reducing Opioid Utilization in Inpatient Rehabilitation Through Therapy-Driven, Interdisciplinary Pain Management
	Jill Slagal, PT, Mary Free Bed at Munson	James Gardner, OTR/L, University of Utah Health; Jeffrey Rosenbluth, MD, Craig H Neilsen Rehabilitation Hospital	Donna Robacker, MOT, Lifepoint Health	Brittany Saptiway, MSOT; Heather Hennessy, MS OTR/L, C-PPS; and Jamie Cason, PT, C-PPS, Inova Rehabilitation Center	Hannah Whipple, PT, DPT, NTMTC, Glendaliz Bosques, MD, and Carlie Spence, ORT/L, NTMTC, Dell Children's Medical Center; Cat Harrison, PT, DPT, UT Health Austin Pediatric Neuroscience at Dell Children's	Hilary Knecht, MSPT, Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital	Erika Brynildsen, BSN, CRRN, MHA, RN, Lifepoint Rehabilitation	Lindsay Childs and Alyssa Hall, MS, OTR/L, Ernest Health

[illegible]

Rhonda Abbott, Senior Vice President and CEO of TIRR Memorial Hermann; Chair, AMRPA Board of Directors
Kate Beller, JD, President, AMRPA