Supported employment and assistive technology for persons with spinal cord injury: Three illustrations of successful work supports.

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The Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia (VCU/MCV) Model System of Care for individuals with spinal cord injury merges the best health care practices with an underlying foundation of consumer advocacy, patient education, and individual consumer empowerment. The VCU/MCV Model System project consists of six individual subprojects: Clinical Pathway Outcomes for SCI, Innovative Medical Issues, Dual Disability: Concomitant SCI and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Community Reintegration, Consumer Advocacy, and Substance Abuse. The project:

1. explores clinical pathway outcomes across the continuum of care;
2. evaluates innovative medical issues related to SCI using interactive computer-based education;
3. delineates the incidence of, and formulates management strategies for, the rehabilitation of people with the dual diagnosis of SCI and TBI;
4. institutes several community integration projects in the areas of transportation, return-to-work, and recreation for people with SCI;
5. develops a statewide network for advocacy for people with disability; and
6. identifies incidences and treatment strategies for people with SCI and substance abuse.

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