The Children's Institute
Amazing Kids. Amazing Place.

Brain Injury Rehabilitation
at The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh

When it comes to pediatric brain injury rehabilitation, no organization can match the expertise of The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh.

As one of the first organizations in the world to develop effective treatment methods for children and youth with brain injuries, we created the region's first pediatric brain injury rehabilitation program. Our years of experience have given us an unparalleled understanding in caring for children and youth with brain injuries.

ASPIRE to Excellence® carf ACCREDITED
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program includes state-of-the-art facilities and comprehensive, individualized, family-centered services provided by an expert treatment team led by highly-experienced physicians.

Our Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program received specialty accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities(CARF)--demonstrating that our Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program maintains the highest measurable standards and accountability.

Recovering From a Brain Injury

Treating children from infancy to age 21, the goal of our Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program is to help each individual regain functional skills while minimizing the impact of the injury on his or her normal growth and development. The chances for recovery among children and youth are more encouraging than among adults. But because they are still growing and developing, they require close, constant observation. Recovery can take weeks, months or even years. We can be there for every step, every phase.

To learn more about the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program at The Children's Institute, please contact Pat Quirk at 412.420.2115 or pqu@the-institute.org.

What To Expect

Patients are transitioned to The Children's Institute from acute care hospitals with the help of a nurse liaison. After admission, a case manager coordinates the rehabilitation and recovery plan, ensuring that each child's individual needs are met. At the center of the rehabilitation team are the patient and family, who provide essential emotional support and are encouraged to take a hands-on role in the recovery process.

Our Rehabilitation Team

The rehabilitation team is developed on a case-by-case basis depending on each child's injury and treatment needs. Team members may include the following specialists:

Physiatrist specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R); this physician leads the rehabilitation process; monitors and treats conditions that affect functional activities.

Clinical Neuropsychologist evaluates cognitive function and behavior; provides family counseling and coordinates the transition back to school and community.

Pediatrician specializes in the care of children and adolescents; evaluates patients' medical status and treats medical conditions.

Occupational Therapist assists patients in improving or adapting motor, visual, cognitive and sensory processing skills to further independence with personal care, leisure, and community integration.

Physical Therapist helps patients to achieve physical independence by improving functions such as walking and sitting.

Recreational Therapist identifies recreational and leisure interests, provides adaptations, schedules community outings, and prepares patients' return to community.

Rehabilitative Nurse focuses on promoting patients' ability to care for themselves; provides 24-hour care, administers medications and provides treatments that help patients move toward their rehabilitation goals.

Respiratory Therapist supports the 24/7 nursing care, providing breathing treatments and management of tracheotomies and ventilators.

Speech/Language Pathologist helps patients improve communication, problem solving and oral motor skills necessary for speaking and eating.

Social Worker provides emotional support to the patients and families; identifies resources to assist families during the rehabilitation program and in preparation for discharge.

Dietitian evaluates and monitors nutritional status based on medical needs to optimize healing and recovery.

Educational Specialist helps develop adaptations and abilities necessary for returning to school.

Transitioning to Home and School

We provide the patient and family with the training necessary for the transition to home and school. Most treatment plans include day trips outside of our hospital or visits home as soon as the patient is able. Our team also coordinates local resources and recommends or obtains needed equipment and/or home care services. For Pennsylvania residents, a referral to the BrainSTEPS program may be made to further facilitate return to school.

Upon inpatient discharge, the individual can continue his or her treatment program on an outpatient basis at our Pittsburgh location or at one of our community satellites in Bridgeville, Irwin or Wexford.

Even after the patient returns home, our brain injury rehabilitation team is available to families to address their questions and concerns in order to make the transition to home and school as smooth as possible.

Patients in the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program at The Children's Institute are introduced to a full range of rehabilitative services. In addition, our facility features:

- **Specially designed pediatric treatment rooms**
- **Specialized equipment**
- **Two therapeutic pools**
- **Playrooms**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Therapeutic Garden**
- **Classrooms**

All are designed to maximize recovery.

We also provide modified barium swallow studies and assistive technology/durable medical equipment evaluations, as well as home assessments for modifications as needed.