



ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM

From Acute Care to Community Re-entry

Brain injury doesn't mean the end of a fulfilling and productive life. In fact, 90 percent of our patients return to the community at a level of cognitive and physical functioning improved from the level upon admission to the program. Shepherd Center's brain injury rehabilitation program is managed by physiatrists and a multidisciplinary team of specialists, and coordinated by case managers who develop discharge plans focused on community reintegration.

At Shepherd Center, all of our resources are devoted to treating complex brain and spinal cord injuries, and related neuromuscular illnesses. We have treated thousands of people with brain injuries, and our medical outcomes exceed regional and national averages.

From intensive care through outpatient therapy, Shepherd Center offers efficient continuity of care.

The trauma of injury also affects the family. To help families take an active role in rehabilitation, we provide 30 days of housing for families of patients who live more than 60 miles from the center.

ACUTE MEDICAL CARE

Shepherd accepts patients with complex medical needs, including ventilator-dependent patients, those with multiple trauma or a dual diagnosis of brain and spinal cord injury, and patients with disorders of consciousness (DOC). Shepherd Center's DOC program is a four-to-six-week program, with about 1-1/2 hours of therapy daily, and takes into account a slow response to therapeutic

intervention. Reducing medical acuity, preventing medical complications, and continually measuring arousal and attention to the environment are key components of this program. It includes neuropharmacological management, nutritional management, maximization of mobility, and family education and training.

ACUTE REHABILITATION

Shepherd Center's Acute Rehabilitation Program treats patients with traumatic brain injury (Rancho IV-VIII), stroke patients under the age of 65, and people with diagnoses including encephalitis, anoxia, tumors, and dual diagnosis of brain and spinal cord injury. We are able to serve more than 350 patients each year.

OUR GOALS FOR EACH PERSON

We have two comprehensive medical rehabilitation units that serve people with brain and other neurological disorders. Both units are equipped with closed-circuit cameras, bed alarms and specialized beds to ensure safety. Both units include a 2,200-square-foot therapy gym, accessible bathrooms, private treatment rooms, computer lab and an activity room.

Acute rehabilitation provides a minimum of three hours of therapy per day, which may include neuropsychology, assistive technology assessment, seating and bracing assessment, therapeutic recreation, intensive family education and training, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

POST-ACUTE PROGRAM

Post-acute programs are community-based programs that provide therapeutic interventions and strategies for reintegration into the community. Shepherd Pathways, located in nearby Decatur, Ga., serves more than 400 patients each year. Specific programs are:

Day Program

- This day program continues the rehabilitation track, providing ongoing assessment, therapeutic interventions, a focus on reintegration, and patient and family education. The program provides three to four hours of therapy per day that includes both individual and group therapy.
- Some transportation and housing is available for patients and families.

Residential Program

- Shepherd Center's post-acute program includes a residential component in a local community setting for people with brain injury who have completed their inpatient program and are ready to live in the community, but still need 24-hour support.

Vocational Program

- This program provides vocational assessment and coaching for those patients returning to work.

POST-ACUTE PROGRAM

Not all brain injuries require the full spectrum of care. Shepherd is often called upon to provide expertise in one aspect of care or evaluation. These services include:

- Adolescent and Young Adult Program
- Center for Diagnostic Evaluation and Medical/Legal Consultation
- Vestibular/Balance Program
- Swallowing Program – Vital Stimulation
- Sports Concussion Program
- Outpatient Therapy Assessments and Evaluations for Physical, Occupational, Speech Therapy and Counseling
- Neuropsychological Evaluation

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

Shepherd Center provides an educational website to provide patients and caregivers with important information they will need when they return home. Visit the website at www.MyShepherdConnection.org.