

Center for Brain Injury Recovery



We are all born with great potential.
Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?



Kennedy Krieger Institute
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL



Overview

When a child experiences a brain injury, the Center for Brain Injury Recovery at Kennedy Krieger Institute, one of the nation's leading centers focused on pediatric brain injury rehabilitation, provides unparalleled treatment, resources, and support. From 24-hour inpatient care to outpatient specialty programs, the Center for Brain Injury Recovery helps children and young adults up to age 21 recover from their injuries and make the transition back to home, school, and community life. Whether a child's symptoms are severe or mild, specialists from multiple disciplines work together to evaluate, diagnose, and create an individualized treatment plan customized to each patient's unique needs.

The most intensive level of care happens in our inpatient unit, providing 24-hour nursing care and intensive, interdisciplinary treatment by a physician-led team of rehabilitation professionals. Established in 1979, Kennedy Krieger's inpatient unit was the first program of its kind in Maryland to be accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Since then, our specialists have treated thousands of children and adolescents with rehabilitation needs due to neurological injury or illness. The Center for Brain Injury Recovery is also accredited by The Joint Commission.

Diagnoses of patients treated at Kennedy Krieger's Center for Brain Injury Recovery:

- Traumatic brain injury, including concussion
- Stroke
- Encephalitis
- Brain tumor
- Seizure disorder
- Other neurological disorders

“Kennedy Krieger is the hope center of the universe.”

– Ed Slattery, Matthew’s Parent

Our Approach

Brain injuries can cause physical, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral changes of varying severity—all of which can significantly impact daily life.

Evaluation, treatment, family training, and follow-up are all essential components of our clinical programs. We work with the people in the child’s everyday life to promote ongoing functional gains, with the goal for the child to participate as fully as possible in school, at home, and in the community. Our team brings together innovative technology, research, and leading-edge therapies to best support the child’s needs in all settings. The brain injury team will ensure that your questions are answered, the recommended treatment plan is explained, and the next steps are coordinated.



Why Choose Kennedy Krieger?

Patients seen at Kennedy Krieger Institute have access to care and treatment that is unparalleled:

- Our clinical staff have specialized training and expertise in brain injury rehabilitation.
- The Kennedy Krieger experience is one that is marked by our interdisciplinary approach in all settings.
- Kennedy Krieger has an unequalled continuum of care, from inpatient through outpatient settings.
- With our strong commitment to full participation in the community, we ensure that each child obtains the individualized supports needed to function as fully as possible across all settings, with a particular emphasis on developing an appropriate school program.
- Our nationally-known brain injury training programs provide a culture of excellence that promotes cutting-edge treatments to enhance patient outcomes, safety, and quality of care.

Our Team

The Center for Brain Injury Recovery is co-directed by Dr. Stacy Suskauer, a pediatric physiatrist (physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist), and Dr. Beth Slomine, a pediatric neuropsychologist. Both Drs. Suskauer and Slomine have a national reputation for their expertise in pediatric brain injury care and research.

Each child has an interdisciplinary team of highly skilled clinicians selected to meet the individual needs of the child and family. The treatment team is made up of experienced specialists, including the following:

- Physicians
- Neuropsychologists
- Physical and occupational therapists
- Speech-language pathologists
- Social workers
- Nurses
- Educators
- Child life/recreational therapists

Additional consultative services may also be provided as needed, such as:

- Audiology
- Adaptive equipment
- Psychiatry
- Nutrition
- Assistive technology
- Behavioral psychology



Continuum of Care

The Center for Brain Injury Recovery at Kennedy Krieger Institute has a comprehensive Rehabilitation Continuum of Care, with extensive experience in providing acute and chronic neurorehabilitation within different settings of care, depending on the patient's needs. The Continuum is accredited by both the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and The Joint Commission.

Inpatient Services

Patients with the most severe injuries often begin their course of treatment through Kennedy Krieger's inpatient unit. Some transfer directly from an outside pediatric intensive care unit, which allows a seamless transition into therapy, prevents complications, and promotes recovery. We accept patients with tracheostomies, feeding tubes, ventilators, intravenous lines, and other medically complex issues.

Throughout a patient's stay on the inpatient unit, therapy goals are discussed daily, with the family playing a critical role on the treatment team. Discharge planning begins at admission, and when the timing is right, we can offer unique alternatives to the inpatient setting that help extend a patient's rehabilitation into home and community life.

From the beginning of the patient's stay, the family is educated on their child's condition, the stages of recovery, and what to expect during the process. As therapy continues, families are trained to assist with the child's care so that caregivers are as prepared as possible for discharge. Patients receive a full array of interdisciplinary services as appropriate for their treatment plan.

In addition, we have a specialized team that focuses on children in a minimally conscious state. Our experts in the **Brain Injury Responsiveness Program** evaluate and treat children and adolescents with a history of injury to the brain who exhibit altered arousal or ability to interact with their environment. Our program includes detailed interdisciplinary evaluations and a unique, three-tiered approach of medication management, assessment of sleep cycles and responsiveness, and identification of stimuli that promote response.

“The therapists at Kennedy Krieger have been truly amazing. We share all our joys with them—every little thing he does. They are almost part of the family now.”

– Rajesh and Anjali Kumar, Rohan's Parents

Outpatient Services

Coordinated Outpatient Services

Day Hospital

Patients who have daily therapy needs, but do not require the 24-hour medical care of an inpatient setting, can be treated through our day hospital Specialized Transition Program (STP). This five-day-a-week, intensive day treatment program provides rehabilitation services consisting of daily therapy and school experiences. STP offers full interdisciplinary treatment coordinated by a rehabilitation medicine physician.

Community Rehabilitation Program

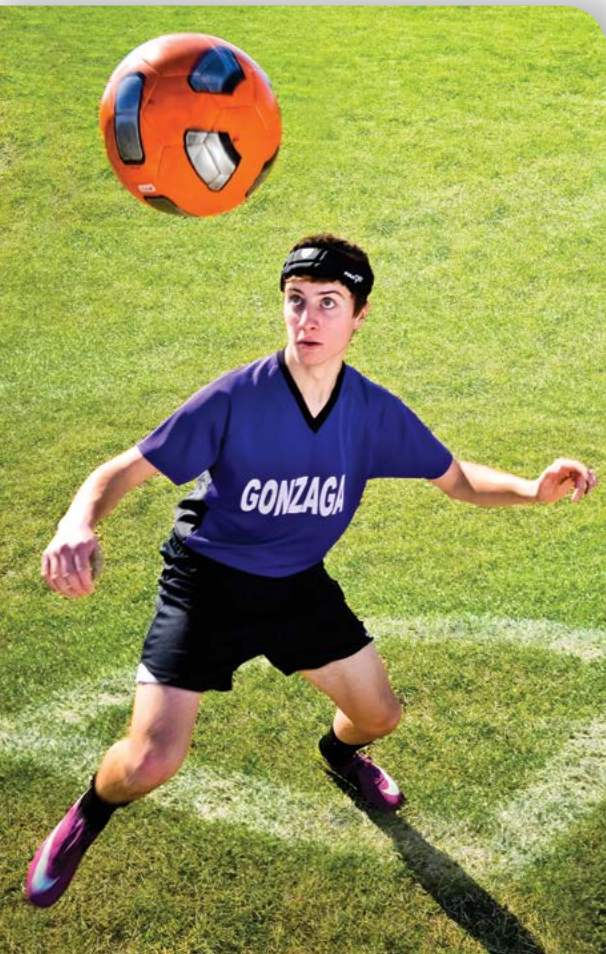
Our Community Rehabilitation Program is designed to provide comprehensive, coordinated therapies targeted at improved function in a variety of real-world settings. This is a flexible program that can meet an individual's needs in home and community environments. The program's services range from full interdisciplinary team neurorehabilitation to a single therapy, as needed.

Outpatient Specialty Clinics and Follow-up Program

Comprehensive evaluation and treatment services, as well as long-term follow-up, are available for patients with brain injuries through our specialized outpatient clinics. Our clinics were developed to meet the most common needs of children with varying levels of brain injury. These clinics include:

Concussion Clinic

In this clinic, we serve children with mild traumatic brain injuries (concussions), as well as those with more significant injuries who may be briefly hospitalized but do not need intensive rehabilitation services. Our goal is to determine the best path for the child's recovery after concussion, and to help the child return to academic, athletic, home, and community life. Our expertise extends to those children who are slow to recover from a concussion and continue to struggle weeks, and even longer, after the injury. In addition, we provide education and support for families who have questions about their child's recovery.





“I am so appreciative of Kennedy Krieger...They went above and beyond for my daughter.”

– Karen Earle, Charnira’s Parent

Brain Injury Clinic

Children who require more extensive interdisciplinary care are evaluated and followed in our Brain Injury Clinic. Children served in our inpatient unit, Specialized Transition Program, and Community Rehabilitation Programs typically receive follow-up care in this clinic. Children who received initial care at other facilities and require further interdisciplinary evaluation or treatment are also served in this clinic. Our physicians, neuropsychologists, behavioral psychologists, physical therapists, social workers, and educators evaluate children to ensure that all of their long- and short-term rehabilitation needs are being met. This interdisciplinary team is especially appropriate for children with behavioral, cognitive, and educational needs that occur after a brain injury.

Leaders in Brain Injury Research

Our focus is to learn more about brain injuries and translate that learning to patient therapies and care. To learn more about our brain injury research initiatives, visit KennedyKrieger.org/BrainInjuryResearch.





Graeme and Gemma's Story

For the Frost family, the first miracle happened when their family survived a horrific car crash. After the accident, Gemma, 7, was minimally responsive for three weeks. Her brother Graeme, 10, remained in a similar state for several days. As the children regained consciousness, their brain injuries manifested differently. Graeme's injury affected his motor skills; he could not walk or swallow. Gemma's issues were both cognitive and physical. She couldn't remember how to talk, for example, or how to brush her teeth.

Following emergency treatment and stabilization, Graeme and Gemma were admitted to the Kennedy Krieger inpatient unit, where professionals from each specialty of the program's interdisciplinary team evaluated them and met with their parents to discuss appropriate rehabilitation. While inpatients, the siblings followed rehabilitation plans as unique as their injuries. Graeme worked with occupational and physical therapists and speech-language pathologists, learning how to walk, swallow, and be able to speak without effort. With Gemma, therapists focused on helping her relearn the tasks of daily living.

After several months of inpatient care, Graeme was talking clearly and walking on his own. Gemma could get dressed and communicate with others. Yet they were not ready for school. Instead, they moved to the Specialized Transition Program, a rehabilitation day hospital where the children received therapies, but also continued with schoolwork with the help of special educators. Both children successfully transitioned from STP to schools in their community.

"If it hadn't been for Kennedy Krieger, and the remarkable way their team made sure the kids started all those intensive therapies while they were still in the hospital, there's no way either Gemma or Graeme would be where they are today," says their mother, Bonnie.



“Kennedy Krieger is like a symphony in motion, with all of the different services cooperating together to work as a team to heal Greg.”

– Stephanie Watson, Greg’s Parent



First in the Field

The inpatient unit for individuals with brain injuries at Kennedy Krieger was the State of Maryland’s first CARF-accredited program. To receive and maintain this prestigious accreditation, an organization must pass an in-depth review and meet rigorous guidelines for service and quality. Our program meets or exceeds internationally recognized treatment standards, and is committed to excellence and the highest satisfaction for each patient and family served.



Patient Satisfaction

For more than 35 years, the inpatient and outpatient brain injury services at the Kennedy Krieger Institute have earned a high level of satisfaction. For more detailed and current information about our outcome measures, please visit **[KennedyKrieger.org/BrainInjuryCenter](https://www.kennedykrieger.org/BrainInjuryCenter)**.

Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of patients and their families and treats them with courtesy and dignity. Kennedy Krieger Institute provides care that preserves cultural, psychosocial, spiritual, and personal values, beliefs, and preferences. Care is free from discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression including transgender. We encourage patients and families to become active partners in their care by asking questions, seeking resources, and advocating for the services and support they need. 10/2016



Contact Information

Referrals can be made by doctors, parents, acute care discharge planners, or community providers. We work quickly to gather and review medical and insurance information, and formulate a plan that is best for the child and family. Preadmission tours for the inpatient unit may be scheduled by appointment.

Inpatient Referrals

For more information about an inpatient admission, please call **443-923-9416** or email Intake@KennedyKrieger.org.

Parents and Family Members

For more information or to make an outpatient appointment, please call **443-923-9400**, or toll-free at **888-554-2080**.

TTY: **443-923-2645** or Maryland Relay **711**

Physicians & Healthcare Professionals

To make a referral, call our Physician Referral Line at **443-923-9403** or email FindASpecialist@KennedyKrieger.org.

Mailing Address:

707 North Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21205

KennedyKrieger.org/BrainInjuryCenter



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