

Brain Injury Responsiveness Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute

About Our Program

The Brain Injury Responsiveness Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute evaluates and treats children and adolescents with a history of injury to the brain who exhibit altered arousal or altered ability to interact with their environment. Our program includes detailed interdisciplinary evaluations and state-of-the-art treatment techniques. Patients are initially evaluated in our outpatient clinic by an interdisciplinary team of physicians and therapists. During this initial assessment period, the team will evaluate medical issues, including medication regimen, sleep, sensory and motor functioning, responsiveness, and motivational stimuli.

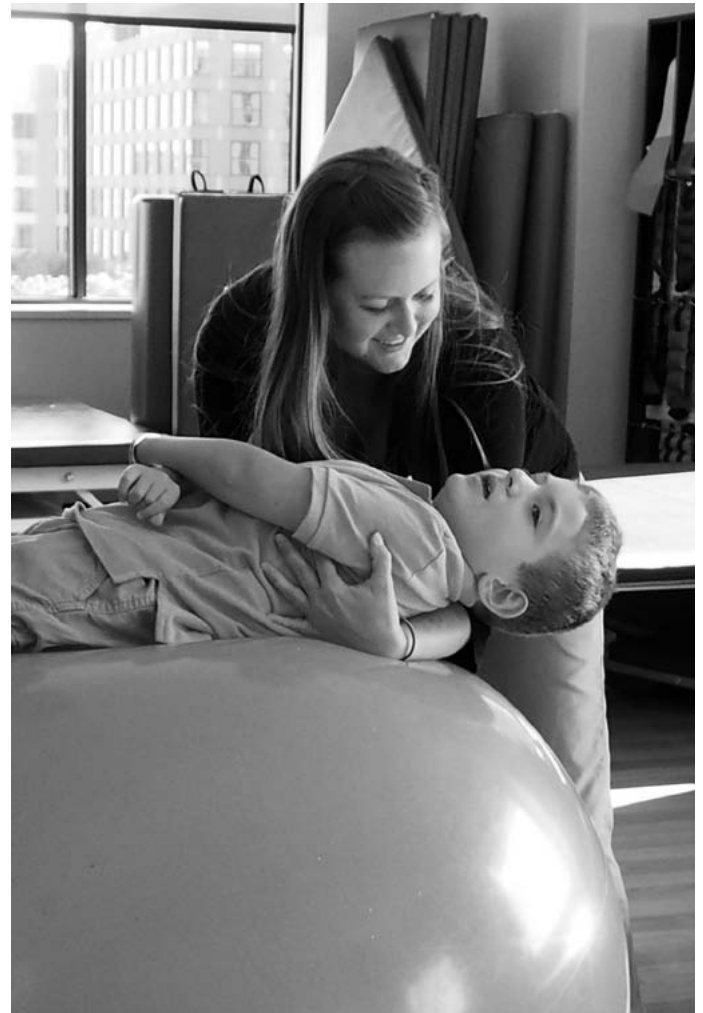
Following the evaluation, the interdisciplinary treatment team and the patient's family will work together to identify goals for participation in the program. Patients who are appropriate for the program will either be admitted to our inpatient neurorehabilitation unit or receive intensive outpatient coordinated care. A specialized interdisciplinary team with expertise in disorders of consciousness works together to address evaluation and treatment issues through direct interaction with patients and regular interdisciplinary discussions.

Primary Program Goals

Our expert physicians and therapists address goals in patients with limited to no response to their surrounding environment. We currently admit two types of patients:

• Acute Rehabilitation Patients

Acute rehabilitation patients are those who are experiencing their first rehabilitation following a new injury or illness. For an acute rehabilitation patient, goals of the inpatient admission include optimizing responsiveness and function, and preparing the family for care at home.



• Chronic Rehabilitation Patients

Chronic rehabilitation patients are those with chronic effects of injury or illness who require ongoing care. Specific goals are identified prior to admission and typically include optimization of medication management, strengthening functional communication, maximizing positioning, and improving motor functioning.

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



Kennedy Krieger Institute

For more information, visit kennedykrieger.org or call 888-554-2080.

Our Team

Our interdisciplinary team has extensive experience evaluating and treating patients with disorders of consciousness from infancy through young adulthood. Members of this team include:

- **Physicians:** Neurologists, physiatrists, and developmental pediatricians manage the complications and conditions of severe brain injury, including motor dysfunction, sleep dysregulation, and impaired arousal and awareness. Special attention is given to managing medications in an effort to reduce sedating medications, while considering medications to promote arousal, such as amantadine, methylphenidate, and Ambien.
- **Neuropsychologists:** Neuropsychologists provide systematic evaluation of a patient's arousal and responsiveness through the use of standardized clinical assessment techniques and individualized measurements. Information gathered by our neuropsychologists is used to evaluate the effectiveness of current medication and therapeutic interventions.
- **Behavioral Psychologists:** Behavioral psychologists with expertise in functional behavioral analysis collect and analyze data about the patient's sleep to determine the need for medical or environmental recommendations to improve daytime arousal and nighttime sleep. Our behavioral psychologists also obtain information from family members and therapists regarding the patient's likes and dislikes. These preferences are systematically evaluated and incorporated into daily therapy as motivators.

- **Rehabilitation Therapists:** Physical, occupational, and speech-language therapists with expertise in disorders of consciousness intensively work with patients to address goals related to swallowing, functional mobility, optimal positioning, functional communication, and responsiveness. Although these therapies are typically found in programs traditionally known as "coma stimulation" programs, in our program they are uniquely paired with additional intensive evaluation and treatment services from other specialists.

Contact Information

Brain Injury Responsiveness Program

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

TTY: 443-923-2645 or Maryland Relay 711

kennedykrieger.org

Physicians and Healthcare Professionals

To make a referral, call our Physician Referral Line at 443-923-9403.

707 North Broadway
Baltimore, Maryland 21205



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