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Program

Inpatient Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program

Craig Hospital has been providing rehabilitation for people with brain injuries since 1956, making it one of the most experienced brain injury rehabilitation programs in the country. Fifty years of experience and acquired expertise has developed a comprehensive system of care, taking patients from the first weeks after injury to return to home and community. Craig Hospital is licensed as an acute care hospital. This means that Craig is equipped to provide care for newly injured patients and can deal with a wide range of injury complications. The staff is experienced in treating adults and adolescents (16 years+) with moderate to severe traumatic or acquired brain injuries at all levels of cognitive, behavioral and physical functioning.

Early Intervention After Brain Injury

Craig Hospital has a close relationship with many trauma centers in the region. A preadmission clinical evaluation is provided by Craig Hospital staff at those trauma centers immediately after the injury to facilitate early intervention.

Direct collaboration with Swedish Medical Center gives Craig Hospital direct access to state of the art diagnostic, laboratory, surgical and subspecialty services. Craig Hospital also provides medical direction at the Centura- St. Anthony's Central Neurotrauma Unit. Both Swedish and St. Anthony's are Level One Trauma Centers.

This continuity of care, together with the experience and specialization of the staff and of the Craig Hospital facility itself, results in a comprehensive system for brain injury treatment.

The Interdisciplinary Team

The inpatient program is the foundation on which this comprehensive system of care for brain injury has been built. Upon admission to the Brain Injury program, each patient and family is assigned to a interdisciplinary team of experienced clinicians, who begin setting, achieving and evaluating rehabilitation goals. Leading these teams are [Dr. Weintraub](#) and [Dr. Ripley](#) who have a combined 31 years of experience in brain injuries. These physicians provide full time primary medical care. They are experts in brain/behavior relationships, in medication options, and in understanding the complexities and the long term effects of brain injury.

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behavior attendants (BAs) provide individualized structure and assistance to the patients, as needed. The goal is to provide the least restrictive environment possible. As patients progress, they may move to the East Unit, which is a transitional unit with more privacy and independence, while still providing acute hospital care.

Therapy Classes

Most therapy is provided on a one to one basis by licensed therapists. These therapists have only five patients on their total caseload at any one time. In addition, to provide multisensory stimulation, a variety of group classes are provided by the interdisciplinary team.

These classes include:

- Mat Class: group exercises for people in the early stages of mobilization
- SMAT class, for people working on higher level balance and coordination
- Fit Class for strengthening and conditioning
- Speech Group, working on conversational activities
- Skills Class, which is an educational lecture group
- Project Group, doing procedural and hands on group activities
- Cooking Group
- Horticultural Group
- In house Direct TV Educational programs

Family Inclusion and Involvement

Brain injury rehabilitation involves not only the patient, but the patient's family and support system. For this reason, we welcome families, and there are no restrictive visiting hours. Families are encouraged to stay in our on-site Family Apartments - the first thirty days at no charge. They are also urged to participate, observe therapy sessions, and to attend educational programs. The Department for Patient and Family Services exists to provide families with counseling, assistance with insurance issues and help in applying for benefits.

For patients and families living locally, structured pass programs are provided to allow the patient to go home for short periods as trial runs for discharge home.

Therapeutic Outings

Craig is located in a residential neighborhood suburb of Denver, with easy access to nearby restaurants, shopping, parks and outdoor activities. We take advantage of the beautiful Colorado climate by getting outside for therapy. A variety of therapeutic outings are

provided for patients involving each of the therapeutic specialties (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Therapeutic Recreation and Speech Therapy.) Families are encouraged to go along.

The therapeutic recreation program is vitally important in providing applied reality based therapy at Craig and in the community. The quality of the recreational opportunities is unparalleled, providing patients and families with experiences to stay emotionally and physically healthy. Additionally, The Digby Friendship Center exists on campus for families to host social gatherings in a homelike atmosphere.

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