Pediatric and Adolescent Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program
Services Provided

- Physical Therapy
- Vision Therapy
- Educational Therapy
- Behavioral Intervention
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Secondary Education Preparation
- Coordination of School Re-entry
- Rehabilitation Nursing Services
- Pharmacological Consultation
- Neuropsychological Consultation
- Counseling/Psychological Services
- Case Management
- Occupational Therapy
- Sensory Integration
- Nutrition Services
- Swallowing and Feeding
- Aquatic Therapy
- Bilingual Translation
- Community Support Services
- Family Education/Counseling
- Home Evaluation
- Long Term Follow-Up Support
Pediatric and Adolescent Program

Head injury is the leading cause of death from trauma in the pediatric population, with an estimated 1,000,000 children in the United States sustaining mild to severe brain injuries each year. Centre for Neuro Skills Pediatric and Adolescent Brain Injury Program is designed exclusively for the young population from 5 years of age to 18 years of age. The program focuses on developmental skills, regaining independence, and reintegration into the educational setting.

Frank E. McDonald, M.D., Medical Director for the pediatric and adolescent brain injury program at CNS, is Board Certified in Pediatrics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. McDonald has extensive experience in private practice as well as inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings. He received his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine and completed residencies in both pediatrics and physical medicine and rehabilitation. Dr. McDonald and the CNS team of therapists, nurses, and case managers establish treatment goals with the patient and their family. A comprehensive treatment approach puts the patient and family at the center of a team of interdisciplinary rehabilitation professionals providing inpatient, outpatient, and day treatment rehabilitative services. For each child or adolescent, a program is structured with rehabilitation services, educational development, and recreational activity. Evaluation of functional outcome goals are established and modified throughout the patient’s rehabilitation.
School Services

Following a brain injury in a child or adolescent, the ability for educational learning and the development of milestone skills becomes a challenge. Centre for Neuro Skills educational program is designed to achieve successful milestone development and educational outcomes. At CNS, an Educational Therapist evaluates each child’s learning style then develops an individualized program. A classroom setting with a curriculum base offers a unique opportunity to enhance learning. The Educational Therapist can assist with the transition back into the school environment, including communication with the school, participation in meetings, and provision of written modifications or learning tips, according to the student’s specific needs. All students who are participating in therapy services at Centre for Neuro Skills have the option to be enrolled in Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District. Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD has a Brain Injury Team, which will assist the student by interacting with the therapeutic treatment team and family to create an Individualized Education Program. The CNS Case Manager can prepare the necessary enrollment paperwork for the family to complete. Each student can obtain school credit through homebound instruction to be held at Centre for Neuro Skills or assistance is available for coordinating services through a school district of your choice.
Residential Living

Centre for Neuro Skills (CNS) offers a continuum for rehabilitation through its residential treatment program. The individualized residential programs are focused on regaining the maximum level of functioning while continuing to meet patient’s and families’ current and ongoing needs. Patients reside in our two-bedroom apartment setting designed to provide a safe environment to live and play while preparing to return home and to the community.

While residing at the residential apartments, goals are set and achieved with the help of specially trained physicians, nurses, therapists, case managers, and Rehabilitation Assistants (RA’s). Designed to provide an integrated treatment approach, rehabilitation therapies continue in the residential setting. Patients perform chores to improve their activities of daily living skills and are awarded with allowances.

Focusing on skill building and education, homework also offers a therapeutic benefit. The RA’s assist and accompany the patients on various outings which include going to the movies or out to dinner, finding just the right book to read at the library, enjoying a picnic, practicing sports, playing cards or video games, listening to that perfect tune, exercising in the workout room, or relaxing in the activity center with other patients. Families are invited and encouraged to participate in outings and activities. Depending on the age of the patient, a member of the family may be asked to stay in the apartment with the patient. This provides family members an opportunity to take a more active role in the rehabilitation of their loved one while gaining greater insight into their unique needs.
T.E.A. Party
Centre for Neuro Skills invites the family and school personnel to participate in the monthly T.E.A. Party – Teacher Education Assistance Program. The T.E.A. party is a conference structured to facilitate effective communication and assistance for the student receiving rehabilitation services at CNS. The conference provides direct information from the therapeutic treatment team regarding the student’s status. It also allows the opportunity to share knowledge, education, and experience in order to create or modify an Individualized Education Program based upon the specific needs of the student. The goal at CNS is to work together with the family and school system to facilitate a successful reintegration back into the classroom setting upon completion of the therapy services. CNS is an educational resource to the family, teachers, and administrators regarding the impact of traumatic brain injury on the student’s future education.

Family Support Services
The family education program is designed to inform the parents, siblings, and other key members in the patient’s life about traumatic brain injury. CNS counselors work with patients as they recover and support families with adjustment issues. Families not able to participate onsite can access the family education program through teleconference. The pediatric team provides continuum of care from admission to discharge and as the patient transitions back into their home, school, and community.
As a parent, we think that one of the major decisions in life will be to help our children pick the right university to get the best education. Yet, I never thought the toughest decision would be to pick a rehabilitation center for my 16-year-old son. The reality came when my son was in an automobile accident that killed his mom, injured his brother, and left him in a coma for ten weeks. After a year of hospitals, home health, and outpatient rehab, my son was still in a wheelchair, on a stomach tube, and unable to walk or talk. We began to explore brain injury rehabilitation centers and where the best facilities were in the country. After a doctor’s visit with my other son, a doctor, who we had met during the hospital stay, asked how my son was doing and told me about CNS and a patient’s mom I should call for a referral. We talked with the case manager, and within two weeks, we had been approved.

The team at CNS had the same results in mind – Grant walking and talking again! Due to insurance limitations, we did not qualify for inpatient care. At this point, we knew we had to move to the area to get the best care. Each morning, five days a week, we took my son to CNS for intense therapy. He not only received speech, occupational, physical, and cognitive therapies, but he was enrolled in homebound school with the local public school system. This was a tremendous help in keeping up with his educational schedule.

After 15 months of not speaking a word, Grant said his first word. After 18 months of not walking, Grant took his first step. Every minute was worth the stay. The entire staff worked tirelessly to reach new goals each month. With every accomplishment came new levels to reach. We returned home, returned to school where Grant was able to graduate with his class, and continue to make progress. Today, Grant works at Goodwill Industries. He walks with no assistance and continues to make small improvements. We are grateful for God’s miracles and the great teamwork at CNS.
Centre for Neuro Skills

Founded in 1980 by Dr. Mark Ashley, Centre for Neuro Skills (CNS), is a nationally recognized postacute brain injury rehabilitation facility. CNS is an experienced and respected provider of rehabilitation programs for acquired brain injury.

Dr. Mark Ashley created CNS out of necessity when a devastating brain injury left his 21 year old brother Steve Ashley completely disabled. Conventional medicine and available long-term care gave Steve no hope for recovery or regaining an independent life. Steve provided a personal opportunity for Dr. Ashley to demonstrate what he had come to believe through successful work with other individuals with brain injuries – that rehabilitation was possible. People locked inside the physical prison of brain injury could be given the keys to freedom through an intense program of therapies. Steve Ashley’s journey to recovery became the model for CNS’ philosophy. Our bias for action is to do whatever it takes to return the person with a brain injury to the highest level of independence possible.

Since 1988, CNS has been providing a seamless continuum of postacute rehabilitative care for adolescent and pediatric patients in Irving, Texas. CNS offers postacute inpatient, outpatient and residential services, as well as supported living in Bakersfield, Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, and Irving, Texas.
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