

FACT SHEET:

Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury Services

Why Choose Blythedale?

Blythedale Children's Hospital is a longtime leader in the treatment of children recovering from brain injury, including Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), post-infectious (meningitis, encephalitis, etc.), brain tumors, and stroke. The Hospital's extraordinary multidisciplinary Brain Injury Treatment Program addresses every aspect of a patient's recovery, including the needs of the family.

Brain injury treatment and recovery at Blythedale take on a special prominence with our dedicated TBI Unit—the newest and most modern brain injury treatment unit in New York State. The latest in neurophysiological monitoring equipment allows us to monitor patient recovery from coma and detect subclinical seizures. Each patient room is private, sound and light controlled and designed to provide a low-stimulation environment as needed by patients recovering from TBI.

Blythedale is the only specialty children's hospital in New York State with the capability of providing the highest level of medical care and rehabilitation for children with complex medical issues. Blythedale is well-known for its superior outcomes and the ability to help patients achieve their maximum potential and meet their treatment objectives. The goal is to help all of our young patients return to their families and communities.



Additional advantages to patients and families:

- New York State Certified TBI program.
- 24-hour in-house pediatric coverage.
- Experienced nursing staff (70-80% R.N.).
- Full-time specialist in child neurology, child psychiatry, pediatric rehabilitation medicine and pulmonology coverage.
- Interdisciplinary clinical team trained in TBI management maximizes patient gains.

- Unit nursing provides exceptional continuity of care.
- Family-focused, patient-centered care, including family education, support groups and discharge planning.
- Staff training in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention avoids potential behavioral crises and helps patients develop and improve appropriate coping skills.
- The Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD, the Hospital's on-site New York State Special Act K-12 public school district, maximizes cognitive rehabilitation and encourages collaboration between educators, therapists, nurses, physicians and families.

On-Site Services and Support Areas Serving Patients with Brain Injuries:

- Child Neurology (including neurophysiological monitoring)
- Pediatric Neuropsychology
- Child Psychiatry and Psychology
- Physiatry and Rehabilitation Medicine
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Pediatric Orthopedics
- Pediatric Nursing
- Pediatric Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapies (including feeding therapy)
- Pain Management
- Child Life Services

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The Brain Injury Team at Blythedale

Jay E. Selman, M.D., Co-Director

Dr. Selman is Blythedale's Chief of Neurology. He received his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas, and completed both his Pediatric and Neurology residencies at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. He is Board Certified in Child Neurology, Pediatrics, Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and Sleep Medicine.

Christopher Rackley, Psy.D., A.B.Pd.N., Co-Director

Dr. Rackley is an American Academy of Pediatric Neuropsychology Certified Pediatric Neuropsychologist. He received his B.A. from Washington University and his Psy.D. degree from Yeshiva University.

Joelle Mast, Ph.D., M.D., Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Mast is a pediatric neurologist with a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Ohio State University and a medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine. She completed residencies in Pediatrics and Neurology at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics, Hospice & Palliative Care, Child Neurology and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities.

Josephine Kuhl, M.D., Chief of Psychiatry

Dr. Kuhl received her medical degree from the University Di Padova in Padua, Italy. She completed residencies in Adult Psychiatry at the State University of New York Downstate, and in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Dr. Kuhl is Board Certified in Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Ruth Alejandro, M.D., Attending Physiatrist

Dr. Alejandro completed an internship in Internal Medicine at New York Medical College, and a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at New York Presbyterian Hospital/University of Columbia and Cornell (where she also served as Chief Resident).

Judi Peacock, M.P.H., R.N., W.C.C., Chief Nursing Officer

Ms. Peacock's career spans more than 30 years in nursing, with extensive pediatric and pediatric critical care expertise. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Boston University and received her M.P.H. from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

Nicole Martini, L.C.S.W.

Ms. Martini received her M.S.W. from Fordham University. She works with families to address the full spectrum of their needs, from transitioning to Blythedale from an acute care center to discharge planning.

Clinical Support Services

- Social Work/Case Management
- Discharge Planning
- Radiology
- Lab Services
- Assistive Technology
- Pharmacy
- On-Site Equipment Clinic
- Audiology
- Patient Advocacy
- Robotics Lab

Outcome Data for Traumatic Brain Injury:

WeeFIM* measures of Functional Improvement (2010)		
Functional Areas	BCH % Improvement	% Improvement Similar Facilities
Self-Care	94 %	69 %
Mobility	138 %	86 %
Cognition	60 %	51 %
Total Percentage Improvement	92 %	67 %

*Wee FUNCTIONAL INDEPENDENCE MEASURE (PEDIATRICS FORM)



Contacts:

For Referrals or Feedback on Referred Brain Injury Patients:

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