The Priory
Highbank Centre
Brain Injury Services

A REAL AND LASTING DIFFERENCE FOR EVERYONE WE SUPPORT
Introduction

Through our services at The Priory Highbank Centre, we provide leading person-centred neurorehabilitation programmes that are bespoke to the severity and complexity of a person’s particular neurodisability. We provide care for people with neurodisabilities resulting from acquired brain injuries (ABI), including those caused by traumatic brain injury (TBI) or neurodegenerative conditions such as motor neurone disease or multiple sclerosis.

Patient profile

Our patients may have experienced:

- Traumatic brain injury
- Acquired brain injury
- Spinal cord injury
- Diffuse multi-focal brain injury
- Stroke
- Subarachnoid haemorrhage
- Neurodegenerative conditions e.g. motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis

The centre prides itself on recognising families as central to the wellbeing of the patient and they are encouraged to play a key role in goal setting and care planning. We employ a family liaison officer to support families through their time at The Priory Highbank Centre.

The interdisciplinary team

Our neurorehabilitation services employ a comprehensive interdisciplinary clinical team led by Dr Krystyna Walton, Consultant in neurorehabilitation and Director of Greater Manchester Major Trauma Rehabilitation.

The team includes:

- Assistant psychologists
- Consultant clinical neuropsychologist
- Consultant paediatric intensivist
- Dietitian
- Family liaison officer
- Generic therapy assistants
- Healthcare assistants
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Registered children's nurses
- Registered general nurses
- Social and recreation coordinators
- Speciality doctor
- Speech and language therapists

Service provision

The service works to an interdisciplinary team model of rehabilitation for patients with brain injury. It is based on the experience gained by the team working in the field of brain injury rehabilitation and is grounded by the following national guidelines:

- Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness – Royal College of Physicians (2013)
The Priory Highbank Centre specialises in the following areas of neurorehabilitation:

- Mechanical ventilation management and complex chest and respiratory management
- Tracheostomy management including cuffed tracheostomies
- Weaning and decannulation
- Assessment and rehabilitation of prolonged disorders of consciousness (low awareness or minimally conscious) including SMART® assessment
- Postural and spasticity management with onsite use of botulinum toxin therapy
- Dysphagia management/PEG and PEJ fed patients
- Nutritional assessment and review
- The use of assistive communication and augmentative technology
- Sensory regulation and stimulation management programmes
- Cognitive rehabilitation and functional retraining
- Management of violence and aggression
- The service has a fully equipped gym, featuring tilt tables, treadmills, exercise bikes and balance trainers
- Integration into local schools for our school age patients with programmes tailored to meet individual needs. In addition, our neurotherapy team works closely with the schools to incorporate the national curriculum into activities on the unit.

Outcome measures

In order to ensure that our patients receive the very best treatment throughout every stage of their rehabilitation, we regularly monitor their progress using a range of outcome measures, including:

- Functional Independence Measure + Functional Assessment Measure
- Rehabilitation Complexity Scale (Extended Version)
- Northwick Park Dependency Scale
- Northwick Park Therapy Dependency Scale

Outcomes are also measured by a reduction in the amount of medical and nursing care that the patients require. Patients are often admitted with complex postural needs and through intensive therapy achieve improved musculoskeletal health, skin integrity, reduced chest infections and as a consequence, a lower frequency of hospital admissions.

The service is provided across three units

Our expertise is at the severe and complex end of the spectrum.

**The Walmersley Unit**

The Walmersley Unit is a 19-bedded unit for patients aged 16+. It is a team-led, inpatient facility providing interdisciplinary team assessment and rehabilitation. The unit facilitates rehabilitation for a range of patients, from low awareness to the more independent. Rehabilitation programmes are tailor made to suit the assessed needs of the individual and may be delivered on a short term or longer term basis.

Rehabilitation is goal driven and patient centred, aiming at all times to optimise the individual’s potential. The team works with the patient, family, local services and other agencies to achieve the most appropriate discharge environment.

**The Elton Unit**

The Elton Unit is a 28-bedded unit which is a nurse-led unit facilitating quality care and slow stream rehabilitation for brain injured adults aged 18+. The service is aimed at those whose disability requires management by a specialist team of practitioners who work together to maintain the individual’s functional independence and previous gains made in rehabilitation.

**Lynne House Children’s Unit**

Lynne House Children’s Unit is a 5-bedded unit which provides intensive interdisciplinary assessment, treatment and support for children, aged 0 to 17, who have acquired brain injuries or complex neurological conditions. We also care for children with a variety of disabilities such as cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

The nursing-led team provides 24 hour paediatric nursing cover and individualised rehabilitation programmes, working closely with the interdisciplinary therapy team, in a residential setting. We adopt a family centred philosophy of care and recognise that a relaxed, friendly environment is vital for children to achieve their potential.

“The staff that I came into contact with were friendly, helpful, very knowledgeable and professional and this aided us with a safe and smooth transition. All of our staff who visited your unit had only positive feedback to give and we felt much more confident working with N because of your teams assistance.”

ABI Rehabilitation Team Manager

100% of school age patients (up to year 11) in Lynne House attend school
He has required no course of antibiotics for his chest in the last three months... this is tribute to the quality of care he is receiving at The Priory Highbank Centre.

Consultant in Respiratory and Intensive Care Medicine

Case study

P was admitted to an acute hospital with a benign brain tumour (meningioma). Although the meningioma was removed, there were complications post surgery and a shunt was inserted. This resulted in various deficits.

On admission to The Priory Highbank Centre, P presented global weakness and reduced movement especially on the right side. The patient also suffered from fatigue, dizziness, nausea, vomiting and anxiety, which initially resulted in limited therapy participation.

The treatment P received was patient-centred with a 24 hour approach.

Here is a summary of the progression and achievements P made during her time at The Priory Highbank Centre:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission</th>
<th>Discharge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cuffed Tracheostomy</td>
<td>Decannulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG fed</td>
<td>Eating and drinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 hour care, 2 carers</td>
<td>1 pop-in carer, 3 times a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed bound</td>
<td>• Independent bed mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Transfer with assistance of one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Independent mobility in wheelchair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Independently making drinks throughout the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Able to complete hobbies - sewing, reading, social activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxious unable to participate in therapy</td>
<td>• Reduced anxiety, below clinical need for intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Self-led relaxation and mindfulness transcripts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incontinent bladder and bowel</td>
<td>• 100% continent throughout the day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In our recent satisfaction surveys, 100% of patients at Highbank were satisfied with the quality of care received.

Referrals

Referrals are accepted from all NHS services including ITU, Trauma units, adults and children’s wards, local authorities, private medical insurers and solicitors. The onsite team will be happy to discuss funding options and arrangements. Admission is following a comprehensive assessment by the interdisciplinary team and subject to agreement by the relevant funding authority.

To make a referral or for enquiries and further information, call us on 0170 628 3304 send an email to highbank@priorygroup.com or visit our website at www.priorygroup.com/highbank