

CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

Our Mission: To improve child and family outcomes after pediatric critical illness via screening and multidisciplinary, coordinated, and longitudinal support.

Spotlight Service: Neuropsychology

Neuropsychology examines brain-behavior relationships to understand the effect of someone’s medical and developmental history on their emotional, behavioral, and cognitive functioning. There are numerous conditions that people are born with (e.g., heart defects, spina bifida) or can acquire (e.g., brain injury, brain tumors, epilepsy) that affect the way the brain works. Neuropsychologists are licensed psychologists who evaluate the effect of these conditions on skillsets such as:

- Intellectual ability
- Learning and memory
- Attention and self-regulation
- Language abilities
- Visual-spatial skills
- Problem solving and reasoning
- Mood and social skills

The goal of a neuropsychological evaluation is to identify strengths and weaknesses and make personalized recommendations for medical treatment, school services, and home living.

When do you see a Neuropsychologist?

-Inpatient: While you are in the hospital (ICU or general pediatric floor) following an injury, a neuropsychologist may see you for a brief evaluation of current cognitive function or to assess needs prior to returning to home or school.

-Rehabilitation: While you are receiving rehabilitation services, a neuropsychologist may see you to assess cognitive progress and plan for discharge.

-Outpatient: After discharge from the hospital and rehabilitation, a neuropsychologist may see you to follow up on cognitive recovery, update treatment and school recommendations, and address any new or ongoing difficulties that may result from your medical history.

Referral to Neuropsychology

Children referred to the Pediatric Neuropsychology Service must currently be obtaining services at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the referral must be made by a UPMC Children’s Hospital physician.



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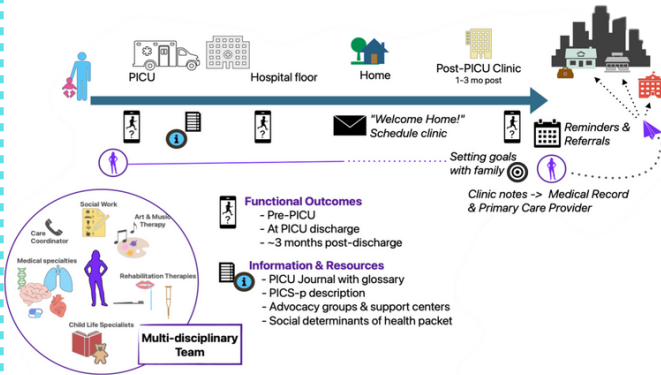
Sarah Laughlin, PhD



UPMC CHP Quality Week 2023

Evaluating the CIRCLE program as a new, personalized model of care for thriving after pediatric critical illness

-Families reported CIRCLE was acceptable and beneficial. Further work is needed to improve data collection and retention.



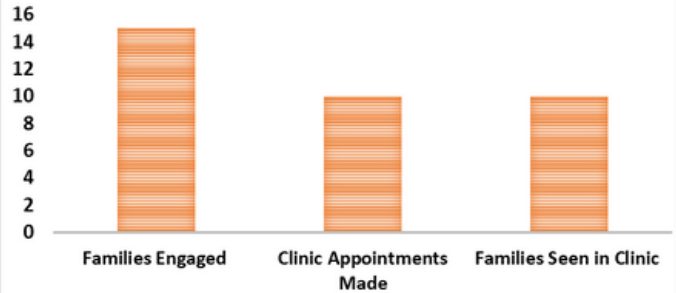
Development of a Family Advisory Council to maximize Recovery from Critical Illness

- Partnerships with diverse families optimize program services.
- Collaborative engagement with families for program improvement prompting QI initiatives.
- Engagement with other CHP FACs may improve recovery experience and family satisfaction.

Program Goals for 2024

- Implement Virtual Follow Up Visits for CIRCLE Patients
- Launch new QI Initiatives based on collaboration with families
- Strategize for CIRCLE growth and sustainability

CIRCLE ACCRUAL APRIL 2023-OCTOBER 2023



Family Advisory Committee

The CIRCLE Team met with members of the existing FAC in November 2023 to discuss a new QI initiative focused on improving the patient and family experience during transition from the PICU to the general hospital floor.

The FAC gave their input on the developing survey that will be given to families as well as gave feedback on their own experience with transitions in the hospital.

Next Meeting: Spring 2024

Contact Us!

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