



Franciscan Hospital for Children

Our interdisciplinary rehabilitation staff is comprised of a team of individuals who work together to ensure a patient's needs are being met throughout the course of his or her stay. Each member of the team has a different area of expertise but all have a shared goal. All focus on providing care that allows each child to reach his or her full potential. Members of the team include:

A Primary Rehabilitation Nurse assists patients in achieving maximum independence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Responsibilities include:

- Performing activities that maintain and restore function and prevent complications.
- Directing carryover of skills taught and practiced during therapies.
- Coordinating the child's daily schedule.
- Providing a therapeutic environment.
- Providing the patient and family with education.
- Acting as a patient and family advocate.

A Physiatrist is a physician who specializes in pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation. Responsibilities include:

- Establishing a medical diagnosis and prognosis while providing medical management.
- Interpreting results of radiologic and laboratory findings and special testing results.
- Prescribing treatments, medications and therapeutic aids.
- Guiding the treatment plan.

A Physical Therapist assists patients in functional restoration of mobility.

Responsibilities include:

- Addressing range of motion, strength, reflexes, tone, posture, orthotic or prosthetic fit and function.
- Addressing positioning and mobility needs including bed mobility, transfers, seating and ambulation.

An Occupational Therapist helps patients restore function for optimal participation in self-care activities and work, school, family, community and leisure activities. Responsibilities include:

- Assisting with self-care and independent living skills.
- Addressing joint function and protection, coordination, endurance, body mechanics and positioning.

- Guiding the use of adaptive equipment and prosthetic devices; designing, fabricating and applying orthotic devices.
- Evaluating home management, prevocational activities and social skills.
- Participating in adaptation of physical and social environment

A Speech and Language Pathologist assists with communication and feeding. Responsibilities include:

- Treating disorders of verbal and written language, articulation fluency, and interactive communication.
- Treating comprehension, memory and cognitive deficits.
- Developing use of appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication systems.
- Developing treatment plan for patients with swallowing and feeding problems.

An Audiologist provides audiological services. Responsibilities include:

- Assessing hearing and auditory processing.
- Directing hearing aid fitting.
- Developing aural rehabilitation programs as needed.

A Social Worker assists with personal issues affected by disability.

Responsibilities include:

- Assessing coping history and current psychosocial adaptation to the disability.
- Assessing availability of immediate or extended family and support networks; providing counseling and support.
- Addressing housing, living arrangements, education, financial and employment issues.
- Discussing healthcare costs and acting as a liaison between the patient/family and community resources.

A Psychologist evaluates and treats psychological and neuro-psychological impairments relating to disability. Responsibilities include:

- Assessing the cognitive and emotional status of the patient to facilitate psychological treatment and adaptation to the disability.
- Counseling patient and significant others with respect to limitations of and expectations about disability.

A Therapeutic Recreation Specialist provides goal oriented leisure and recreation activities. Responsibilities include:

- Promoting normal growth and development.
- Assisting in adjustment to hospitalization, disability and discharge.

The Pastoral Services Staff provides patients and families with spiritual support.

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting patient and families with spiritual needs.

- Acting as a liaison between family and religious practitioners in their communities.
- Providing religious education where needed.
- Visiting families and patients to offer support.

A Special Education Teacher acts as a liaison between hospital and community schools. Responsibilities include:

- Assisting in assessing a child's educational needs post discharge.
- Assisting parents in developing an individual education plan.
- Acting as an advocate in assuring that the child is placed in appropriate educational programs based upon his or her needs.

A Case manager/Discharge Planner provides ongoing utilization review and assists in discharge planning. Responsibilities include:

- Providing insurance companies with updates regarding the patient's needs.
- Obtaining pre-certification for any equipment or services requiring approval.
- Communicating with family regarding insurance coverage issues.
- Assisting in assessing post discharge needs.
- Arranging for home care services and equipment.

A Nutritionist is responsible for:

- Assessing the patient's current nutritional status.
- Monitoring the patient's ongoing nutritional needs.
- Providing nutritional counseling to patients and families.

A Patient Advocate is available to assist patients and their families with questions and concerns that they may have over the quality of care they receive.

Responsibilities include:

- Serving as a vital link between families and hospital staff.
- Facilitating open communication.
- Ensuring that concerns and questions are handled in a professional manner and with confidentiality when required.

A Child life specialist can enhance a child's emotional, social and cognitive growth during a hospital stay by using developmental interventions and play.