Changes were felt in many different areas. To provide the safest environment for our patients, families, and staff, donning a mask and eye protection became part of the daily routine. Though smiles could no longer be seen on faces, they showed through eyes and encouraging words. Patients and families also had to work through limited visitation. We encouraged the use of technology platforms to still stay connected to those at home. To limit exposure from the community, we had to put a pause on outings away from the hospital and enhanced our focus on self-care, wellness, mindfulness, and leisure interests. We also put our animal assisted therapy on hold. Beck, our canine companion, has been at home during the pandemic and we look forward to when we can welcome him back on staff.

Despite all the changes, many things remained the same. Most notable was the dedication from the team. Each team member was up for the challenge and took the change in stride. They were flexible and resilient in their work. The patients and families remained their top priority and the positive attitude continued to fill the unit.

Services offered to patients also remained unchanged. Our program was able to continue providing not only physical, occupational, and speech therapy but also many of the unique services that make our program special. Music therapy could still be heard in the hallways, child life still supported patients as they navigated their hospitalization, and massage was still found bringing relaxation at the end of a hard therapy day. While these are just a few examples, there are many more as the whole team was all in. Most importantly, the outcomes for our patients and their families were still achieved. Illness, injury, and the need for rehabilitation did not stop amid the global pandemic. Through it all, we continued to make sure our patients met their greatest potential.

Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our team, we continued to make sure our patients met their greatest potential.

OUR MISSION
The mission of the Inpatient Rehabilitation Program at Nationwide Children’s Hospital is to provide comprehensive family-centered physical rehabilitative services while embracing the diverse and individual needs of each child and family.

CARF-ACCREDITED
Nationwide Children’s Hospital has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) since 1992. Our accreditation as a Pediatric Specialty Program is granted following an independent, external review of operations and outcomes. This demonstrates a commitment to providing quality services focusing on the unique needs of each patient and family and continually evaluating the results of services.

The year 2020 was filled with uncertainty. During the COVID-19 pandemic, health care workers were asked to be agile, innovative and adopt change at a moment’s notice. At the same time, the needs of our patients and their families continued. Our rehabilitation program weathered the changing environment to provide family-centered care and achieve best outcomes for our patients.
Nationwide Children’s Hospital, one of the largest pediatric health care and research centers, is home to our nationally recognized and accredited pediatric inpatient rehabilitation program. In addition, Nationwide Children’s is one of the only freestanding pediatric hospitals in the country with a verified trauma and burn program. This allows us to provide comprehensive care for patients recovering from traumatic or burn injuries.

The rehab program offers a family-centered environment that provides progressive quality care for patients with a decrease in function as a result of a significant illness, traumatic injury and/or surgery. Our rehabilitation program is specifically designed for patients who:

1. Require intensive inpatient occupational, physical and/or speech therapies
2. Can tolerate and participate in a minimum of three hours of therapy per day
3. Have the potential to make functional gains

Rehabilitation treatment plans are tailored to meet the patient’s needs and preferences while involving the family in all aspects of care. Engaging patients and families in daily rounds and goal setting with the treatment team facilitates this ongoing collaboration. Our rehabilitation team is committed to increasing the family’s knowledge and building their confidence to care and be advocates for their child once they return home and establish their new normal.

The robust multidisciplinary psychosocial team collaborates to establish an individualized plan of care to meet each patient’s general well-being through developmental, emotional and behavioral supports. Treatment is enhanced by identifying and incorporating each patient’s interests, strengths, values and preferred coping styles into their plan of care. Psychosocial support is provided by:

- Social Worker
- Neuropsychologist
- Music Therapist
- Pediatric Psychologist
- Therapeutic Recreational Specialist
- Child Life Specialist
- Massage Therapist
To provide the safest environment for our patients, families, and staff, donning a mask and eye protection became part of everyone’s daily routine.

Testimonials

“I can’t say enough kind things about the whole rehab team! We felt very included as team members, which is appreciated. Thank you for helping (our son) progress so much in such a short amount of time. We are incredibly grateful!”

“The staff was very caring and helpful. They made everything comfortable and helped in many different ways. We appreciate everyone’s efforts at such a crazy time for us as well as the extenuating outside factors. Thank you.”

“(The most valuable part of rehab) is the relationships! When here without any friends or family, you became both!”

“All rehab services were outstanding, and we cannot imagine a more professional, knowledgeable and dedicated staff. We feel very fortunate for our son’s excellent outcome and recognize the part of the talented staff played in helping our son reach this place. Thank you!”
**Our 2020 Patients**

Total Number of Patients = 110

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**Diagnoses of Patients**

- Neurological: 36
- NonTraumatic Brain Injury: 24
- Traumatic Brain Injury: 25
- Other: 2
- Spinal Cord Injury: 11
- Stroke: 12
- Deconditioning, Burn, Orthopedic and Amputation: 2

Other includes: Deconditioning, Burn, Orthopedic and Amputation.

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**Patients Discharged to Home**

- Home: 103
- Acute Care: 7

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**Customer Satisfaction**

- Parents: 100%
- Patients: 100%

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**WeeFIM® Improvement**

WeeFIM®, a functional independence measure for pediatrics, is a tool used to measure the need for assistance in performing basic life skills.
WHY CHOOSE THE INPATIENT REHABILITATION PROGRAM AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL?

- Our patients and families give us high satisfaction rates.
- We are a pediatric family-centered inpatient rehab program.
- Our most important goal is to successfully return patients to home, school, and community.
- We are located within a 527-bed pediatric Level 1 Trauma facility.
- Direct and immediate medical and diagnostic services are available for our patients.
- Our patients stay in private rooms with attached bathrooms.
- Parents are welcome to stay 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
- We are affiliated with the largest Ronald McDonald house in the country.
- We are accredited by The Joint Commission and The Commission on Accreditation of Rehab Facilities (CARF)

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN’S IS LEADING THE WAY IN PEDIATRIC REHABILITATION RESEARCH.

Our Rehabilitation team is motivated to improve the outcomes of children and adolescents requiring rehabilitation services through research and innovation. We lead investigations that involve partnerships with key stakeholders within and outside our institution to benefit patients and their families.

Visit NationwideChildrens.org/Rehab-Research to learn more.

Visit NationwideChildrens.org/Rehabilitation for more information.
To learn more about our program and take a video tour of our unit, visit us on the web at NationwideChildrens.org/Rehabilitation.

Referrals:
Phone: (614) 722-8653
Fax: (614) 722-8622
Email: InpatientRehabReferrals@NationwideChildrens.org

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