Hasbro expands medical/psychiatric programs with Bradley Hospital

Renovations help double the number of inpatient beds and dramatically increase partial program capacity

PROVIDENCE—The Medical/Psychiatric Program at Hasbro Children’s Hospital has recently completed renovations on both its inpatient unit and its partial hospitalization program to accommodate an increased demand for integrated medical/psychiatric care for children and teens.

“Within the past year, our Medical/Psychiatric Program has received patients sent to us from some of the largest academic medical centers nationwide—places like North Carolina and California,” said HEINRY SACHS, MD, chief medical officer at Bradley Hospital. “Here in Rhode Island, we are uniquely equipped with a program that can meet a growing local and national need for this type of care, and this expansion allows us to help more children in need.”

The Medical/Psychiatric Program at Hasbro Children’s Hospital addresses the needs of children and adolescents between the ages of 6 and 18 with complex pediatric illnesses. Diagnoses might include eating disorders, medical illness complicated by psychiatric co-morbidity, chronic pain and somatoform disorders. It is the only program in the region designed to provide family-based, integrated care for this patient population.

A collaboration between Bradley Hospital, the only hospital in New England dedicated exclusively to children’s mental health, and Hasbro Children’s Hospital, the program is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of pediatricians, child psychiatrists, psychologists, advanced practice psychiatric nurses, social workers, pediatric nurses, mental health workers and nutritionists. Coordination of care also occurs with hospital-based rehab specialists and pediatric subspecialists as needed.

Patients requiring inpatient treatment are admitted to the Inpatient Medical/Psychiatric Program at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, a secure unit located on the sixth floor of Hasbro Children’s Hospital. The recently completed renovation expanded the program from eight to 16 beds, offering both private and semi-private rooms and areas for family, group and milieu therapy.

“To provide optimal treatment for children with psychiatric and medical illness, the inpatient unit was designed with input from both pediatric and psychiatric experts,” said PHYLLIS DENNERY, MD, pediatrician-in-chief of Hasbro Children’s Hospital. “This integrated care model is critically important to children who would not otherwise be able to heal unless they can receive total treatment of both body and mind.”

Also expanded during the renovation is the Hasbro Children’s Partial Hospital Program, which has extended capacity from 16 patients to 24. The partial program, opened in 1998, is the only day treatment program in New England for children with combined medical and psychiatric illness.

It offers a safe, nurturing environment that allows children and families to participate in activities and therapy in a climate of healing five days per week, while also providing access to the same range of services available to patients admitted to the inpatient unit, including consultation with specialists and comprehensive diagnostic testing.

“Children in our partial program may not require an inpatient stay, but do require a high level of support due to impaired functioning in the home and school settings, or limited response to outpatient intervention,” said MICHELLE RICKERBY, MD, psychiatric director of Child Med/Psych Services for Lifespan. “Some patients may step down to the partial program after a stay as an inpatient, while others at high risk for hospitalization may be able to avoid an inpatient stay by participating.”

Both programs specialize in family-based, integrated care. Families are involved in the creation of an individualized treatment plan, incorporating a balance of medical and psychological support with the goal of the child’s successful transition to full functioning at home and school. Family involvement includes nursing and nutrition education sessions, multidisciplinary team meetings, family therapy and involvement in multifamily groups. For more information about the Medical/Psychiatric Program at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, visit: http://www.hasbrochildrenshospital.org/Medical-Psychiatric-Program.html

Hasbro introduces new pediatric spinal surgery

Magnetic growing rod surgery allows in-office spine lengthening versus bi-annual returns to the operating room

PROVIDENCE—CRAY EBERSON, MD, chief of pediatric orthopedics at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, has performed the first magnetic growing rod surgery in Rhode Island on an eight-year-old boy with a muscle disorder. The surgery eliminates the need for patients to return to the operating room twice a year under general anesthesia, as is the case with standard growing rods. Instead, the patient can be lengthened with an external magnet during an outpatient office visit. Hasbro Children’s Hospital is one of only a handful of medical centers in New England using this technology.

“When children have a severe case of scoliosis, or an abnormal curvature of the spine, the current treatment plan involves surgery, during which the patient is attached with a rod along the spine to control the curvature and prop up their chest,” said Dr. Eberson. “Twice per year, those patients must go back into surgery to manually extend those rods. This new technology can completely avoid those trips to the operating room, thereby reducing infection risk and recovery time, while increasing quality of life.”

This new magnetic rod, such as the one implanted in Dr. Eberson’s young patient, can be lengthened during an office visit every several months using a hand-held magnetic device placed along the patient’s back. No anesthesia is necessary. Dr. Eberson’s patient will now be able to grow and remain seated upright, which will greatly preserve his lung function. “It is the mission of our department to be able to provide the highest level of pediatric spine care,” he said. “This new treatment option allows patients with scoliosis to manage their care in a five-minute outpatient procedure with no pain medication, no recovery time and no absence from school.”