

Traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions may result in cognitive communication impairments which impact everyday life and affect interactions with family and friends. For this reason, the NICoE's Speech-Language Pathology program is integral to its interdisciplinary care model. At the NICoE, every patient receives both an evaluation and at least one follow up session which allows the NICoE's Speech-Language Pathologists to identify strengths and weaknesses, and provide strategies for the improvement of cognitive-communication related to TBI and PH conditions.

Aspects of the Program

- One-on-one sessions with a certified SLP
- An evaluation looking at multiple aspects of cognition and communication
- Education of patients' family members on the everyday implications of TBI/PH-related speech and language conditions
- Compensatory strategy education
- Co-assessment with Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Psychiatry
- Group education class on TBI/PH-related speech and language conditions

Common Cognitive Communication Symptoms Associated with TBI and PH

- Poor short term memory
- Decreased ability to concentrate and focus
- Difficulty with executive functioning (goal-setting, planning and organizing)
- Word-finding difficulty
- Decreased processing speed

Common Assessment Tools

The Speech-Language Pathology program uses both standardized and observational assessment to determine the needs of each service member and how these characteristics affect their day-to-day functioning.

Speech-Language Pathology Program Benefits

- Increased understanding of speech-language and cognitive issues related to TBI and PH conditions
- Increased confidence in ability to improve and follow recommended treatment plan
- Increased awareness about available tools and strategies to improve organizational skills, memory, attention and problem solving