



National Intrepid Center of Excellence

8901 WISCONSIN AVENUE, BETHESDA BLDG 51, MD 20889 - NICOE@MED.NAVY.MIL

The National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) is a treatment planning and research facility located in Bethesda, MD, residing on the campus of Naval Support Activity Bethesda.

The NICoE has been designated a Center of Excellence due to its unique capabilities and mission of providing cutting edge treatment planning, diagnosis, research, and education of service members and families dealing with the signature wounds from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Psychological Health (PH) conditions.

COMMITMENT

Built and equipped through the philanthropic contributions of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, the NICoE is a tribute to all who serve and a lasting legacy of the patriotic citizens who have made its existence possible.

INNOVATION:

The NICoE provides an interdisciplinary team assessment in a holistic, patient and family-centered environment combined with the high tech diagnostic capability. Our treatment planning and long-term follow up for service members with combat-related TBI and PH conditions allows us to foster physical, psychological and spiritual healing.

- **HOPE:** To recognize currently unknown patterns of physiological and psychological processes to develop proven treatment solutions for service members and their families.
- **HEALING:** Every action we perform provides a sense of healing through physical, behavioral, social, and spiritual care.
- **DISCOVERY:** We strive to be a leader through family centric approaches to the physical, social and spiritual wellness continuum as well as a forum for research and promising treatment trials.
- **LEARNING :** We seek to be the national scientific and research information hub for service members, families, providers, researchers, staff, and our academic partners.

MISSION:

TO BE THE LEADER IN ADVANCING WORLD-CLASS PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY TREATMENT, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH.



BACKGROUND

The National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) is a facility dedicated to advancing the clinical care, diagnosis, research, and education of service members and families experiencing combat related traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health (PH) conditions. The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (IFHF) led the fundraising effort for the Center, securing \$65 million in private donations from the American people and overseeing the construction and equipping of the facility. The 72,000 square foot, two-story facility located on the Navy campus in Bethesda, Maryland, was officially transferred to the Department of Defense in a dedication ceremony on June 24, 2010. The NICoE was later transferred from TRICARE Management Activity's Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) to the Department of the Navy for further alignment under the National Naval Medical Center, effective August 10, 2010.

PURPOSE

The NICoE provides interdisciplinary diagnostic evaluations of complex TBI as well as PH conditions. Subsequent treatment plans are developed in a family-focused, collaborative environment while promoting physical, psychological and spiritual healing. In addition to advanced diagnostics and treatment planning, the NICoE also focuses on family education and reintegration support. Additional key principles include serving as a research hub utilizing the most current technical and clinical resources to initiate innovative pilot studies designed to advance medical science in TBI and PH as well as its commitment to long-term follow-up and family contact. The NICoE is led by a skilled interdisciplinary team that strives to harness the latest advances in science, therapy, telehealth, education, research and technology while providing compassionate, family-centered care for service members and their loved ones throughout the recovery process.

TREATMENT

The primary patient population of the NICoE is active duty service members with TBI and PH conditions who are not responding to conventional therapy. After being referred by their provider, patients will come to the NICoE with their families for two-three weeks, where they will stay in a NICoE dedicated Fisher House on the Bethesda campus. Service members return to their duty station as well as referring military treatment facility upon the completion of their time at NICoE with a personalized treatment plan. While the NICoE will follow-up with all patients and providers once the patient returns home, the ultimate goal is to help those eligible service members overcome their challenges with military duty requirements.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR WARRIOR CARE

The NICoE features cutting-edge technology, such as the CAREN (Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment), one of only eight such machines in the world which features a motion platform, embedded treadmill, and virtual environments for evaluating and rehabilitating a patient's vision, reaction time, gait and multitasking ability. Additionally, the NICoE utilizes some of the most advanced imaging technologies in the world, including a Positron Emission Tomography-Computed Tomography (PET-CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and Magnetoencephalography (MEG), enabling providers to view brain scans and images in multiple dimensions.

AMENITIES

The NICoE features the following amenities for service members and their families:

- Patient rooms for art and music therapy, sleep studies and recreation therapy
- A family lounge, playground, café, business center and activity center
- Conference rooms, classrooms and auditorium
- An atrium called "Central Park," which serves as a peaceful, naturalistic center with plants, simulated sounds and different surfaces for service members to experience while walking

THE FUTURE

The NICoE seeks to be a national leader in advancing world-class psychological health and traumatic brain injury treatment, research and education in a healing environment. With its dedicated staff, the NICoE seeks to be an instrument of hope, healing, discovery, and learning for service members recovering from TBI and PH conditions.



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