

## Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program

Clients in the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program in CMS come from a variety of backgrounds. One recent new client is a C5 spinal cord injured adolescent. She was injured during spring break trying to cool off with her family at a swimming area. The water was low at the time and when she dove in, she fractured her neck injuring her spine. This family had several family members with developmental delays from birth, a father with a heart condition but nothing as life changing as this. This family went from enjoying fishing and family cook-outs every weekend to learning how to transfer, do a urinary catheterization, perform a routine bowel program and worry about skin breakdown prevention. They are from a small rural area in the Ocala Forest and suddenly found themselves in "big city" hospitals and a rehab center. The family was learning the care when we also suggested they take the young lady to Philadelphia to the Shriners Hospital for SCI for an evaluation. This meant not only an out-of-town trip, but an airplane ride taking them a long distance from home! The father was reluctant at first but after speaking to several people, he agreed. The young lady and her mother were scheduled to travel to Philadelphia. The preparation was overwhelming and the mother began to doubt the trip. I was able to assist with the paperwork for the hospital and obtain the necessary form from the doctors. I worked with the transportation people for Shriners to coordinate the trip to the airport and afterward, the return home. When told that the flight would be out of Orlando International Airport, even I was overwhelmed! Imagine, a small rural family who had never flown before, now taking a first trip with a young lady quadriplegic and flying out of OIA; Oh my stars! I worked with the local Medicaid transport for arrangements then put together a packet of information on color coded sheets for the mother to take with her. This information was all she needed to get to Philadelphia and return. I also arranged to meet them at the airport to assist getting through the security area and to the gate. I attempted to arrange a foley catheter for the trip but the company did not send a drainage bag so the mother had to catheterize her in the airport bathroom. I was proud of mom; she did a great job improvising. The experience at the airport was good not only for the family flying for the first time but for me to see how the family handled the situation. With some suggestions, they did fine and I knew they would return without any problems. During my first visit after the trip, both Mom and the client could not wait to tell me about flying and the pictures they took. I had to ask about the hospital and the evaluation; they were more excited about the trip! All is well; they are now experienced travelers, even with a wheelchair and all the supplies needed for someone with special needs. I must also say the staff at the airport was very helpful. Mom did look at me once with a "What do I do now?" look but with prompting, she handled it well. This was definitely a rewarding experience for me to know that with the proper support, families can learn and gain from new experiences. I am proud of this family and proud to be a part of guiding them. This is why we do what we do.

**Susan Ignash RN**

**CMS Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Program**



## Medical Foster Care

Medical Foster Care currently has twelve children. The MFC team views all of them as special and feels it is our privilege to help restore the child to a manageable state of health and reunite families. MFC has a young gentleman who will be turning thirteen in the next few weeks. The child has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair, but his spirit and personality shine through the darkest of days. His smile is as wide as the Grand Canyon and he makes friends wherever he goes. The CMS Team is convinced that the child has a career in public relations. The MFC Mom has been tireless in her efforts to care for this teenager (to be) and her other 3 boys. The MFC Mom and this child have a bond that goes beyond words. During a recent home visit I noticed the unspoken language that exists between MFC mother and child. A sly little look, a wrinkle of the nose, a sideways glance, a glint in the eye, or a hint of a smile and a special message with a corresponding emotion has passed between the two without a word being spoken. Our local MFC program works and is successful due to the care and commitment shown by our MFC parents and the enduring spirit of our special MFC children.

**Tom Robertson, MSN/ED, RN**

**Medical Foster Care Supervisor**

## Subspecialty Clinic Referrals

Dermatology	Genetics	Infectious Disease
Cardiology	Pulmonology	Hematology
Renal	Psychiatry	Neurology
Endocrinology	ENT	Orthopedics
Nephrology		

## **Pulmonary Clinic - Dr. Carlos E. Sabogal, MD**

Board Certified in Pediatrics & Pediatric Pulmonology

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, University of Miami School of Medicine

Medical School – Graduated in 1991 from Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal

Residency & Fellowship – Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami

State licensure in FL & CA

Staff Privileges/Hospital Affiliation – Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami & Arnold Palmer Hospital, Orlando

Practicing for 13 years – offices in Orlando

### Referral Appropriate Diagnosis:

Asthma	Recurrent Bronchitis
Wheezing	Ex-premie with BPD
Malacia, floppy airway	Sleep Apnea, snoring
Respiratory noises: stridor	Bronchiectasis
Recurrent pneumonias	Recurrent chest pain
Rule out cystic fibrosis	Tracheostomy
Chronic/recurrent cough	Ventilator dependent
Past Pneumothorax	Chronic lung disease
Exercise induced asthma/exercise intolerance	

### Referral Specifications: Chest x-ray if new client referral

**Ann Wilson, BSN, RN Clinic & Special Programs Supervisor**