

New Britain

TBI Screenings Offered By Hospital For Special Care

Biz Buzz

Submitted by Maureen Jasse on 11-05-2008.

Courant.com iTowns

Hospital for Special Care (HSC) has begun offering screenings for the effects of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (MTBI) in veterans returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many veterans may be suffering symptoms of MTBI after exposure to bomb blasts and other combat related incidents, but may not recognize the symptoms as mild brain injury. As a result, they may not be getting the treatment they need.

The screenings being offered by HSC are free and will direct veterans to appropriate treatment if warranted. HSC has developed a diverse mailing list to reach as many Connecticut veterans as possible through a direct mail campaign over the coming months.

Hospital for Special Care, which is located in New Britain, is a 228-bed, long-term, acute-care hospital specializing in medically complex cases. HSC has proven success in the field of neurobehavioral health, including treatment of MTBI, as well as spinal cord injuries and severe respiratory disease.

How It Will Work

During the last week of April, HSC began sending a direct mailing to veterans' support groups, physicians, employee assistance programs, universities and churches. The mailing furnishes information about the symptoms of MTBI as well as information on how to access the free screening program and educational and support resources. The hospital is offering screenings via phone and the internet through its website, www.hfsc.org.

In addition, HSC has assembled a package of resource materials for veterans and their families. It also will offer access to its Family Resource Center and its Resource Center staff, who will assist veterans, their families and other health care providers in obtaining further relevant information about MTBI and its treatment.

"Because of Hospital for Special Care's extensive experience treating patients affected with brain injuries, it is a unique health resource for residents of Connecticut and surrounding states. We have spent time seeking to understand the issue of MTBI in returning veterans.

Based on the research we have done, we have become increasingly concerned that some of these veterans may be suffering potential long term effects from mild traumatic brain injury and not even know it," said HSC President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. John Votto. "This is an opportunity for us to help get veterans affected by MTBI on the road to better health."

Symptoms of mild MTBI include memory problems, headaches, irritability, dizziness, loss of concentration, or insomnia. Often, patients who present with symptoms of MTBI experienced loss of consciousness or memory loss immediately following an event such as an accident or explosion.

For more information on HSC's screening program, veterans or their families can visit www.hfsc.org or call 860-612-6310.