

The Neurophysiology Lab in a Nutshell by Trei King BA, R.EEG.T, CNIM

The Neurophysiology Lab at Children's of Alabama assists doctors in identifying, treating and monitoring epilepsy. It is divided into three departments:

1. Electroencephalogram (EEG) Department: Children undergo EEG studies with video. EEGs are done on an outpatient basis and are usually recorded for 20 minutes to one hour.
2. Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU): The EMU is located on the 10th floor of the Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children. Children are electively admitted for video EEG monitoring and may spend several days here.
3. Intraoperative Neuromonitoring (IOM) Department: The IOM Department performs monitoring in the operating room during brain and spine surgeries.



Credentialing and Accreditation

As the only pediatric EMU in Alabama, Children's of Alabama is accredited as a Level 4 unit by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC). This is the highest obtainable accreditation.

The American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic Technologists (ABRET) is among the most recognized credentialing and accreditation agencies for EEG technologists and laboratories, both nationally and internationally. All neurophysiology departments at Children's have achieved and maintain individual department accreditations from ABRET. Our EEG department is one of three ABRET-accredited EEG labs in Alabama. Our EMU is the only ABRET-accredited EMU in Alabama. In addition, our IOM department is the only accredited department of its kind in Alabama, as well as the neighboring states of Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

State-of-the-Art Facility

Our EEG systems use the latest and most advanced technologies to acquire, store and analyze your child's EEG data. With high-tech Bluetooth technology, children can occasionally leave their room in the EMU to go to playrooms without losing EEG data, if allowed by their doctor. We also have access to many video games and movies in our EMU and strive to make your child's stay as comfortable as possible.

We Care!

When your child has an EEG, we take extra care to ease your child's anxiety. Here's how a parent recently described their experience:

I was a little apprehensive, as it had been quite a while since my child needed an EEG. The EEG technologist was a gentleman and he was great with my son. He explained everything he was doing to him, and if my son started moving or getting distracted, the EEG technologist was so patient and guided him back to doing the right behaviors. I was amazed as my son followed his commands, patiently sat through the EEG hookup, blew the pinwheel and looked at the flashing lights. The technologist kept praising my son, and of course, my son loved that. That just encouraged the good behavior to continue.