



The CARICOM Neurosurgical Initiative (CNI) is a project designed to improve neurosurgical care within the CARICOM member states through the sharing of intellectual, technical and structural efforts while leveraging political unity of the community.

CNI can serve as the pilot program for surgical system strengthening as well as a key component of pandemic preparedness.

- Governance
- Finance
- Service Delivery
- Infrastructure
- Workforce Development



The implementation will take place in three consecutive phases, with the first phase centered around improving the neurosurgical capacity for: **The Bahamas, Barbados, and Guyana.**

## Where Is The Gap?

Currently there are ~42 neurosurgeons based primarily in CARICOM – or 1 neurosurgeon for every 300,000 persons. This pales in comparison to 154 neurosurgeons – or 1 for every 27,000 persons, in Boston, MA

3.5 million CARICOM residents do not have access to timely neurosurgical care.

More than 50% of CARICOM nations have low governance around TBI prevention

Limited neurosurgery related research production by member states

No regional neurotrauma registry to capture relevant data to inform policy and influence the clinical management of the most vulnerable neurosurgical populations





**CARICOM**  
NEUROSURGICAL INITIATIVE

# ACTION PLAN

Public Policy

Research/  
Education

Clinical

## Public Policy

The aim of the **PUBLIC POLICY** component is to promote government engagement and facilitate ongoing support for neurosurgery as a strategic national priority. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- 1) The adoption of national Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Spina Bifida/Hydrocephalus Recommendations by Ministries of Health
- 2) Improving governance around helmet safety and TBI prevention particularly in road traffic accidents through national laws and mandates
- 3) Government investment in at least one new operating theatre by 2022
- 4) Mandating folate supplementation as standard for women of childbearing age
- 5) Public Service Announcements related to concussion prevention for youth sports leagues

## Research/Education

The goal of the **RESEARCH** and **EDUCATION** component is to facilitate collaboration in understanding the regional neurosurgical disease burden while catalyzing the production of primary research from the region. The actionable objectives for this component are as follows:

- 1) The Implementation of a shared neurotrauma registry
- 2) Completion of a virtual neurotrauma model for nurses and advanced practice providers
- 3) At least 5 organically produced research manuscripts

## Clinical/Administrative

The aim of the **CLINICAL** component is to establish a sustainable framework for the promotion of novel modalities for neurosurgical care and the sharing of learned knowledge. This will be gauged through the following targets:

- 1) The installation and utilization of medical equipment and technology
- 2) Participation of at least 20% of CARICOM neurosurgeons in visiting professorships
- 3) Introduction of advanced treatment modalities for pediatric hydrocephalus, specifically ETV/CPC