

Brochures to Order or Print from the Website

- ___ ABIN-PA in Action
- ___ Assistive Technology
- ___ Brain Injury Basics
- ___ Building New Lives
- ___ Changes in Your Loved One
- ___ Children Require Rehabilitation
- ___ Criminal Justice
- ___ Customer Service
- ___ Definitions
- ___ Discharge Planning
- ___ Domestic Violence
- ___ Everybody Knows Somebody
- ___ Families
- ___ Financial Planning
- ___ Healing Strategies
- ___ Law Officers: Info & Strategies
- ___ Medication Record
- ___ Partnering with Professionals
- ___ Planning Your Recovery
- ___ Professionals You May Meet
- ___ Public Benefits ___ Rehabilitation
- ___ Seniors ___ Sports
- ___ Suicide Prevention
- ___ Telephone Book
- ___ Veterans
- ___ Victims Services

Brain Injury Resources

- ABIN-PA InfoLine
800-516-8052 www.abin-pa.org
- Area Agency on Aging (phone book)
- BIAA Help Line
800-444-6443 www.biausa.org
- BIAPA Resource Line
866-635-7097 www.biapa.org
- Brain Injury Help Line 866-412-4755
(PA DOH free literature, books)
- Disability RightsNetwork(SpEd,TBI,SS)
800-692-7443 ww.drnpa.org
- Elks Nurses (PA) 814-781-7860
(care planning for children)
- Head Injury Program 717-772-2762
(1 year of rehab, \$100,000 max)
- Health Law Project 800-274-3258
(help with public benefits)
- Legal Aid (PA) 800-322-7572
- Meals on Wheels www.mealcall.org
- Medicaid Waivers 800-757-5042
(Community services, CommCare)
- Medical Assistance 866-542-3015
(some adults, all disabled children)
- Medicare Coverage 800-633-4227
(24/7 line, A & B in-home services)
- Medicare Denials 800-322-1914
- Pittsburgh Area Brain Injury Alliance
412-761-9870 www.pabia.org
- Social Security 800-772-1213
(survivors, disability, low income)
- Special Ed Consult Line 800-879-2301
- Special Needs Help 800-521-6860
(Medicaid rehab for children)
- Vocational Rehab www.dli.state.pa.us

YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

**ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA**
Office: 215-699-2139
Messages: 1-800-516-8052
Fax: 215-699-5139
Email: info@abin-pa.org
Website: www.abin-pa.org

What is a Brain Injury?

When something decreases the flow of oxygen or blood to the brain, the damage may impact thinking, behavior and physical functioning.

What are the Causes?

A traumatic brain injury or TBI is from an outside force (whiplash, blast, impact). Other brain injuries result from fever, stroke, brain tumor, cardiac arrest, surgery, poisoning, blood loss, medication, drugs, anesthesia, infection, smoke, carbon monoxide, near drowning, etc.

What are the Effects?

The outcome on the child's life will be known at about age 23 when brain development is complete.

COGNITIVE: memory, speed, word finding, concentration, judgment, spatial awareness, organization, planning, multi-tasking.

PHYSICAL: seizures, balance, spasticity, weakness, paralysis, vision, hearing, speech, headache, fatigue, smell, taste.

BEHAVIORAL: anxiety, depression, mood swings, impulsive, agitated, egocentric, unaware of others.

Rehabilitation Services

Long term rehabilitation is required involving cognitive, occupational, physical and speech therapies directed by a neuropsychologist and a physiatrist. Ongoing help is needed with 504's, IEP's, and problems which will emerge prior to maturation at 23.

State Systems

Behavioral health, mental retardation, and juvenile justice systems must follow a rehabilitation plan from the child's treating neuropsychologist. For help, contact the Juvenile Law Center at 800-875-8887.

Special Education/504

The school must follow the rehabilitation plan of the treating neuropsychologist. Contact the BrainSTEPS program at 724-944-6542 to help your school plan services. By age 14, the IEP must include services to transition the child to adult life. Graduation may be at 21. Call the Disability Rights Network (800-682-7443) and Special Education Consult Line (800-879-2301) for help. Call the Special Kids Network (877-986-4550), The Arc of PA (800-692-7258) and United Cerebral Palsy at (866-761-6129). Keep records of all your calls.

Rehabilitation Funding

All disabled children under 21 in PA are Medicaid-eligible regardless of parent income. Apply on-line at "PA COMPASS", at your county welfare office or through the hospital social worker ASAP. Expenses grow fast. Medicaid will be secondary with other coverage. (Pay & chase rule.)

Immediately request a MA Special Needs Coordinator. For help in working with your Special Needs Coordinator, contact the state Special Needs Unit at 800-521-6860.

Immediately select a Medicaid PCP physician who understands brain injury rehabilitation—this is the key to getting referrals for each service needed—and you must get a promise that the physician will testify when Medicaid claims are denied.

You must prevent all delays, insist on denial letters, and appeal every denial to reduce permanent damage. For help, contact the PA Health Law Project at 800-274-3258.

For help with physician education, go to www.cdc.gov, search on "brain injury tool" and order a free brain injury tool kit for each professional who sees your child. If you have any difficulties, contact ABIN-PA.