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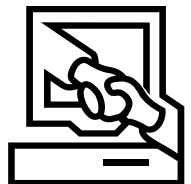
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Brain Injury Resources

- 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
(free literature, books)
- Disability RightsNetwork(SpEd,TBI,SS)
800-692-7443 [ww.drnpa.org](http://www.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
(lifetime CommCare, OBRA, etc.)
- Medical Assistance 866-542-3015
(all disabled children are eligible)
- Medicare Coverage 800-633-4227
(24/7 line, A & B in-home services)
- Medicare Denials 800-322-1914
- Pittsburgh Area B.I. 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 Unit 800-521-6860
(child federally entitled to rehab)
- Vocational Rehab www.dli.state.pa.us

CHILDREN: MAXIMIZING OUTCOMES

215-699-2139
1-800-516-8052
info@abin-pa.org
www.abin-pa.org



**ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA**

What is a Brain Injury?

An event that decreased the flow of oxygen or blood to the brain, leading to changes in the brain that have affected how the child thinks, behaves and/or functions physically.

What is the cause?

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

What is the effect?

The outcome will be known at 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

Outcomes improve with long term rehabilitation involving cognitive, occupational, physical and speech therapies under the guidance of a neuropsychologist. The same person should guide 504 and IEP plans, assist parents, and address problems which arise until maturity at age 23.

State Systems

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

Special Education/504

The school should follow the rehabilitation plan of the treating neuropsychologist. At age 14, the IEP should provide for transition services to prepare for adult life. Contact the BrainSTEPS program at 724-944-6542 to help your school plan services. Call the Disability Rights Network at 800-682-7443 or Special Education Consult Line at 800-879-2301 for help. Call the Special Kids Network at 877-986-4550, The Arc of PA at 800-692-7258 or United Cerebral Palsy at 866-761-6129. Keep records of all your calls.

Medical Assistance (MA)

Because of 1396(d)(r)(5), Medicaid-eligible children under age 21 are federally entitled to rehabilitation after brain injury. 1396(d)(r)(5) defines state responsibilities to children under federal Medicaid Law. This section is also called EPSDT for Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment.

All disabled children in Pennsylvania are Medicaid-eligible regardless of parent income. You can apply on-line—just Google "PA COMPASS"—or at your county welfare office. There is also an expedited enrollment process through hospital social workers. Request a MA Special Needs Coordinator immediately.

For help arranging a rehabilitation program with your Special Needs Coordinator, contact the state Special Needs Unit at 800-521-6860.

Fight all delays, insist on denial letters, and appeal every denial to avoid compromising development and eventual recovery. For help, contact the PA Health Law Project at 800-274-3258.

Recovery demands a lot of work by the child and a lot of work and advocacy by the parent.