

Strategies to promote cooperation.....

1. Minimize sirens.
2. Minimize flashing lights.
3. Move slowly & calmly if possible.
4. Don't get any closer than needed.
5. Speak firmly but gently.
6. Use 2—5 words at a time.
7. Wait 3—5 seconds for an answer or response when possible.
8. Ask one part questions.
9. Give one step directions.
10. Repeat each direction until that step is complete (coaching).
11. Ask "Do you understand?"
12. Ask "Can you do this?"
13. Use hand gestures.
14. Call contact on wallet card or number on medical jewelry.
15. Seat the person to reduce fatigue & focus attention.
16. Test for substances, not for balance or mental acuity.

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
Brain Injury Help Line 866-412-4755
(PA DOH free literature, books)
CHIP 484-477-2948
(Children's Health Insurance Program)
Disability RightsNetwork
(SpEd,TBI,SS) 800-692-7443
Elks Nurses (PA) 814-781-7860
(care plan if disabled before 22)
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 877-550-4227
(Help at home, 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
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

POLICE & CORRECTIONS OFFICERS: Brain Injury Tips & Strategies



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

What is a brain injury?

The diagnosis of brain injury means a change in thinking, behavior or physical function followed an event that decreased the flow of blood or oxygen to the brain because brain cells died, were injured, or became dormant. Event examples include physical trauma (TBI), blast, whiplash, assault, high fever, stroke, brain tumor, cardiac arrest, surgery, drugs, poisoning, medication, blood loss, infection, anesthesia, or nearly being electrocuted, suffocated, or drowned.

Any impact on your job?

A victim, witness or suspect with a prior brain injury may have trouble following directions or giving a statement. They may not remember or understand events. They usually can't think fast enough to respond to questions, conversation, rapid speech, noises, new situations, quick changes or commands. They may easily feel upset or confused and then may act in unexpected or unusual ways.

Divert into treatment

The HELPS brain injury screening tool plus the mental health sequential intercept model allow for diversion into brain injury rehabilitation.

Are there physical signs?

1. Tracheotomy scar at the base of the throat.
2. Marks, scars or depressions on head, neck or face.
3. Head misshapen.
4. Eyes don't line up together.
5. Reacts as if partially blind.
6. Extreme fatigue under stress.
5. Speech is difficult or slurred.
6. Does not speak.
7. Appears deaf or hard of hearing.
8. Awkward, difficulty walking, uneven gait or stumbling.
9. One or more limbs rigid, weak, spastic, or paralyzed.
10. Trembling or shaking.
11. Seizures of various types.
12. Unable to maintain balance.
13. Confusion on uneven ground.
14. Brain injury listed on medical bracelet, chain or wallet card.
15. Difficulty swallowing.

Any behavioral signs?

1. Thinks or reacts slowly.
2. Doesn't follow directions.
3. Doesn't answer or explain.
4. Struggles to find words.
5. Concrete thinking.
6. Can't rush or go any faster.
7. Anxious or fearful.
8. Response not reasonable.
9. Distracted by noise and lights.
10. Unpredictable behavior or stunned when under stress.
11. Disoriented and/or unaware.
12. Can't understand or decide.
13. Confused and/or impulsive.
14. Agitated in a group.
15. Confused when frightened.
16. Doesn't pay attention.
17. Ignores change of topics.
18. No memories of the present.
19. Doesn't recognize or react to events, faces, places or things.
20. Doesn't recall the past.