

Brain Injury & Disability Resources

ABIN-PA InfoLine 800.516.8052
Abuse Reports—Age 0-18 800-932-0313
Abuse Reports—Age 18+ 800.490.8505
Aging/Disability Referrals 866.286.3636
Area Agency on Aging (blue pages)
BIAPA Resource Line 800.444.6443
BrainSTEPS (Local Intermediate Unit)
CareerLink (blue pages)
ChildrensHealthInsurance 800.986.5437
Consumer Protection 800.441.2555
Crime Victim's Benefits 800.233.2339
Defense & Veterans BIC 866.966.1020
Disability Rights Network 800.692.7443
DomesticViolence Hotline 800.799.7233
Elks Nurses (care plans) 814.781.7860
Epilepsy Foundation 800.887.7165
Head Injury Program 717.772.2762
(1 year of rehab, \$100,000 max)
Health Insurance www.healthcare.gov
or 800.318.2596
Health Law Project 800.274.3258
Independent Living Ctrs 717.364.1732
Legal Aid (PA) 800.322.7572
Legal Clinic for Disabled 215.587.3350
Meals on Wheels www.mealcall.org
Medical Assistance 800.537.8862
Medicare Coverage 800.633.4227
(Part A & B have in-home services)
Medicare Complaints 800.783.7067
Office of Vocational Rehab (blue pages)
OVR Complaints 888.745.2357
Social Security 800.772.1213
Special Ed Consult Line 800.879.2301
Special Kids Network 800.986.4550
Waiver Enrollment 877.550.4227
Waiver HelpLine 800.757.5042
Women's Law Project 215.928.9801

ABIN-PA Services

"Empowering Survivors & Families to Rebuild Their Lives."

InfoLine

Resources. Problem-solving. Support.

Advocacy

Individual. Government Affairs.
Nonprofit Coalitions & Collaboratives.

Education

Conferences. Presentations.
Staff Training.

Literature

Free Monthly Newsletter.
Brochures.
Booklets.
PowerPoints.

Website

Newsletter Archives & Sign-Up.
Print Literature.
"Our Stories."
Print Resource List by Birthdate.
Rehab Facility Search by Type.
Videos.

Brochure Categories

General
Children <21
Adults 18+
Families & Caregivers
Rehabilitation
Dual Diagnosis
Justice System

Brain Injury Advisory:
Children <21

YOUR CHILD'S ADULT FUTURE



ABIN-PA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about acquired brain injury and to providing support, education, information, advocacy and other services for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families.

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA

InfoLine: 215.699.2139
Toll-Free: 1.800.516.8052
info@abin-pa.org
www.abin-pa.org

History

Brain injury rehabilitation began in the 1970's with the Vietnam War as advances in medical care saved lives which were so very compromised.

The Pennsylvania Head Injury Program began paying for cognitive rehabilitation in 1985 - long before commercial insurance plans.

The Pennsylvania Auto CAT fund also covered brain injury rehabilitation but was discontinued in 1989.

Pennsylvania's Medicaid Waivers began paying for cognitive rehabilitation therapy for adults after 2000, and in 2005, BlueCross BlueShield decided that this therapy (CRT) was evidence-based for cognitive recovery after brain injury.

Finally, in 2009, Pennsylvania added CRT to the Medicaid state plan for children under 21, as part of its compliance with §1396dr5, the federally required services for children (Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment).

At present, very few physicians or parents realize that children need CRT from the time of injury to age 21, and further rehabilitation may be needed in adult programs.

Brain Injury Myths

1. Children recover faster than adults
2. An injury in childhood has no effect on brain development
3. Treatment at the time of injury is all that is needed
4. Recovery is limited to the first 6, 12 or 18 months
5. A plateau in progress mean that recovery has ended
6. Injured brain cells cannot be replaced or repaired

Brain Plasticity

1. The brain is constantly remodeling from birth to death (except for genetic neurodevelopmental disorders that limit the explosion of neurons created in infancy).
2. Remodeling permits new learning, the increase in intelligence during children's development, and brain injury recovery at any age.

Developmental Peaks

Diagrams illustrate more rapid growth in children's brain development at various ages. At these points, damage that was silent will become apparent and require rehabilitation to normalize later adult behaviors. After brain injury children must be monitored until brain development is complete (age 33).

Medical Assistance (MA)

In Pennsylvania, all disabled children are eligible for Medical Assistance regardless of their parent's income or assets. MA will pay for CRT. Apply through COMPASS online, or go to your County Assistance Office.

Arrange Rehabilitation

If your child's behavior or ability to learn changed following an illness, accident, or other event, ask your primary care physician for a referral for a neuropsychological assessment so that a rehabilitation plan can be developed.

While BrainSTEPS can help your child's school accommodate the child's brain injury, rehabilitation will not be provided unless it is included in the IEP at the doctor's request.

As your child grows older, the value of old learning will fade. Without rehabilitation, new learning will be more and more difficult, and behaviors will remain immature.

Be sure to give your child the best chance for a successful future by keeping up rehabilitation as the brain develops and new strengths and skills are required. Your child's future depends on your advocacy.