

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MAKING A REFERRAL TO ABI INPATIENT REHABILITATION¹

Please remember...

- ✓ Ensure you are using the “ABI Client *Inpatient* Profile” – revised June 2001.
- ✓ All parts of the application must be completed with a current medication list attached.
- ✓ Attach a recent CT Report to the referral. If a report is not available, please indicate the results of the CT scan on the medical information sheet (page 3 of the Profile)
- ✓ A signed consent form must be enclosed. Please ensure it authorizes the Toronto ABI Network to release information to the organization to which you are referring a client. Please note that the organizations with adult inpatient ABI programs are Bridgepoint Health, Toronto Rehab and West Park Healthcare Centre.
- ✓ Attach psychiatric consult notes, if applicable.
- x Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Each application/client need is determined on an individual basis. If you have any questions regarding a specific referral, please contact the Toronto ABI Network office at 416-597-3057.

Forward completed applications to the Toronto ABI Network by mail or fax:

By Fax:

Attention: Judy Moir
Toronto ABI Network
416-597-7021

By Mail:

Attention: Judy Moir
Toronto ABI Network
550 University Avenue, Room 920
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2A2

¹ Admission criteria are for regular stream adult inpatient rehabilitation. For information regarding other ABI programs, please contact the Toronto ABI Network at 416-597-3057

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- **Presents at Level V or higher on Rancho Los Amigos Scale²:** Confused, inappropriate but not agitated. The patient is confused and does not make sense in conversations but may be able to follow simple directions. Stressful situations may provoke some upset, but agitation is no longer a major problem. Patients may experience some frustration as elements of memory return.
- **Clients who demonstrate behaviours** that pose a threat to the safety of themselves or others through directed physical aggression are not appropriate.³
- **Clients must be medically stable** i.e., a client's medical condition should not preclude him/her from actively participating in therapy sessions
- **Tolerance:** Clients should be able to engage in therapy sessions for 10-30 minutes (depending on facility)
- **Clients with multiple pre-existing co-morbid conditions** may be suitable, though depending on the stability of these, clients may be more appropriate for other programs, e.g., geriatric program
- **Age of 18 years or older**, however those younger than 18 will be considered on an individual basis
- **Clients should have identified rehabilitation goals**
- **Clients should demonstrate potential for improvement**, i.e., demonstrate some ability for new learning
- **Psychiatric needs:** Clients who require *acute* psychiatric care are not appropriate for ABI rehab
- **Time since onset:** Admission within 12 months of injury, yet exceptions may be made based on individual need
- **Clients must be in need of 24 hour care** to warrant a referral for inpatient rehabilitation, i.e., clients whose needs cannot be met on an out-patient basis
- **A letter of return** may be requested in certain situations, e.g., trial admission period to rehab.

DEFINITION OF ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (ABI)⁴

An ABI is damage to the brain, which may be caused:

- traumatically e.g., from an external force such as a collision, fall, or assault
- through a medical problem or disease process which causes damage to the brain, e.g., anoxia, non-progressive tumour, aneurysm, infection, stroke with diffuse cognitive deficits

An ABI occurs after birth and is **not** related to:

- a congenital disorder or developmental disability, e.g., cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, autism, spina bifida with hydrocephalus
- a process which progressively damages the brain, e.g., dementing processes, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease.

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² "Understanding Brain Injury" by New Medico Head Injury System, 1990

³ An inpatient and outreach ABI behaviour program is available at West Park Healthcare Centre

⁴ Source: Toronto ABI Network Definition of ABI, May 1999