



Acquired Brain Injury Service

Bedfordshire Neuro Therapy Services



The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Service is a county wide service that strives to ensure that people, who have complex needs following an acquired brain injury, receive timely, person-centred and evidence-based rehabilitation.

Who do we see?

We provide a service to people who:

- are over 18 years old and are registered with a Bedfordshire GP, have sustained a significant acquired brain injury, which is evidenced by scans and medical records;
- are likely to have had a loss of consciousness for longer than 30 minutes, been disorientated and confused for more than a day, had a Glasgow Coma Score of less than 8, and/or a loss of concurrent (ongoing) memory.

Causes

An acquired brain injury may have been caused by an event such as:

- trauma e.g. assault, road traffic accident
- Cerebral Anoxia - lack of oxygen to the brain due to a medical emergency such as heart attack;
- Complex Cerebral Vascular Accident, such as stroke or haemorrhage
- infection such as encephalitis, or meningitis
- non progressive tumour.

When and where will we see you?

Referrals to the ABI Service are made by Health or Social Care professionals. Once a referral has been received with the required medical and social history, a member of the ABI Service will be allocated to offer an assessment. The patient can be seen with their family at the hospital, in their home or any other clinical setting.

The Service

People experiencing an acquired brain injury do not have an easily defined and predictable road to recovery. They may need an individualised rehabilitation package to enable them to reach their optimum recovery.

The service comprises three main elements

- Assessment – When possible, we request that local services carry out further assessments to identify current needs. These guide action plans are established with the service user, other professionals, family and/or carers.
- Provision and co-ordination of rehabilitation by local services – When possible we request local services provide rehabilitation. This may be within an intermediate care bed in Bedfordshire or within the patient's own home. The ABI Service will be involved with co-ordinating this intervention, and may provide clinical input, supporting local services where required.
- Management of specialist placements – For those whose requirements are beyond the scope of local services or those who meet NHS continuing healthcare criteria, the ABI Service will make recommendations for placements such as specialist rehabilitation services or nursing homes. The ABI Service will apply for NHS funding and provide case management. The ABI Service will monitor progress and facilitate discharge from specialist services to home or alternative placements working in partnership with other agencies involved.

The Team

We are a small team comprising Occupational Therapy, Clinical Neuropsychology, a rehabilitation technician and a service coordinator. The ABI Service have expertise in the area of brain injury and adopt a person centred ethos, working within local and national evidence based guidelines.

For further information about this service contact:

Bedfordshire Acquired Brain Injury Service
Bedfordshire Neuro Therapy Services
Kempston Clinic
Halsey Road
Kempston
Bedford MK42 8AU

Tel: 0300 790 6832 Monday to Friday 8:00 - 16:00

Email for general enquiries: ccs.beds.abi@nhs.net

Email for referrals only: ccs.bedsneuro.referrals@nhs.net

If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

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If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net.

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.