



REHABILITATION FOLLOWING HEAD INJURY – PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

What is a head injury?

Head injury (acquired brain injury) includes any rapid onset brain injury of any cause (excluding stroke).

For example:

- Injury as a result of trauma to the head
- Damage as a result of lack of oxygen to the brain (this is known as anoxic brain injury)
- Infection e.g. encephalitis (swelling of the brain)

The severity and type of your symptoms will depend upon the area of the brain that is damaged and the amount of swelling.

Symptoms are very variable but might include problems with memory, concentration, ability to move and balance, mood, communication (speaking and understanding), problems with swallowing, difficulty following instructions etc.

What will happen whilst in hospital?

The initial aim whilst in hospital is to ensure that your medical condition is stable – in the early stages you might have been in intensive care or required surgery at a neurosurgical centre.

At the earliest opportunity you will be assessed by the hospital Head Injury Team (consisting of therapists and nurses depending upon your needs) and a pathway of care will be followed. This assessment will show the main problems that you have following your head injury and the staff involved with your care will ensure that these symptoms are managed in the best way whilst in this hospital.

Whilst you are in hospital you will have a named consultant and nurse – alongside this a specific member of the head injury team will be identified so that if you or your family have any queries or problems you can contact them easily on the following number:

NAME:

CONTACT:

What will happen when I leave Tameside General Hospital?

It is quite common for patients with head injury to be referred to a specialist Neurological Centre for further rehabilitation – this will be discussed with you and your family if this is necessary.

Arrangements will also be made whilst you are in hospital to ensure that if you are discharged home that you are fully assessed and the necessary community services are involved.

If further information is required please discuss this with the staff on the ward, head injury team member or access the hospital's Patient Health Information Service. (Tel no 0161 922 5332)

Further information can be obtained from:

Headway: 0808 800 2244
BASIC (Brain and spinal injury charity): Neurocare Centre
(Salford): 0161 707 6441

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آپنی یف ای تہی پڑتے یا بڑتے نا پآرےن، تآہلے انؤرہ کرے ا تہنک ہلث ٹیمےر سآہے ٹےلیفونے
ہوگآہوگ کرن 0161 331 5149/5150 ای نآہآرے، تہن تآرآ آپنآکے سآہآہ کرےتے پآرہے۔

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0161 331 5149/5150 پر رآبط کریں تو وہ آپ کی مدد کر سکیں گے۔

If you have a visual impairment this leaflet can be made available in bigger print or on audiotape. If you require either of these options please contact the Patient Health Information Centre on 0161 922 5332