

FAST FACTS

What is a Traumatic Brain Injury?

A traumatic brain injury, or TBI, is an injury to the brain caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head that can result in changes to cognitive (thinking/learning/remembering), behavioral, or physical functions. This does not include birth trauma or degenerative disease. TBI can occur following a fall, motor vehicle crash, sports-related injury, gun-related injury, or abusive head trauma. All known or suspected brain injuries should be taken seriously and evaluated by a medical professional.

Signs and Symptoms of Brain Injury:

- Reporting a history of a fall, motor vehicle crash-passenger or pedestrian, being struck in the head or upper body
- Changes in memory of events or information that occurred prior to or after a brain injury
- Changes in attention, concentration, mood, behavior or personality
- Headache, Nausea, Vomiting
- Difficulty with balance, dizziness, blurred vision, or hearing loss
- Sensitivity to any source of light or noise
- Changes in level of consciousness or unconscious
- Seizures
- Difficulty understanding, learning, and retaining new information
- Inconsistent patterns of behavior or academic performance
- Changes in sleep patterns
- Changes in expressive or receptive language skills
- Changes or loss of fine or gross motor skills
- Changes in swallowing, eating or continence of bowel or bladder

What is the Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS) TBI Program?

The CRS TBI Program provides services to individuals birth to 21 years old who have sustained a TBI or Anoxic Brain Injury due to near drowning. An anoxic injury occurs when there is a lack of oxygen to the brain. Care Coordination Services are provided by a CRS Care Coordinator who receives ongoing training specific to TBI.

TBI Care Coordinator Services include:

- Collaboration with inpatient treatment teams to assist with transition from hospitals and rehabilitation centers to home, school, and community.
- Education and assistance to the individual and family to obtain appropriate school services such as an IEP or 504 Plan.
- Information and referral to local, state, or federal resources to address social and academic needs.
- Provision of verbal or written TBI materials to family, schools, and community partners to enhance knowledge about TBI, potential effects on survivors, and strategies to compensate in areas of function affected by the TBI.
- Referrals made to CRS Clinics and other physicians for specialty care evaluations.



For more information about
Traumatic Brain Injury,
call **1-888-879-4706** or visit
rehab.alabama.gov
AlabamaTBI.org

