

March 2016
Volume 3 Issue 2

Upcoming Community Events

ABI Coffee Talk – Prince Albert

- Mondays (except
statutory holidays)
- 10:30 AM – Noon
- Community Room @ the
South Hill Mall

ABI Drop-In Program – Prince Albert

- Wednesdays (except
statutory holidays)
- 1:30 – 3:30 PM
- Minto Bowl (201 – 13th St.
West)

Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (SBIA) Support Group – Prince Albert

- Contact Glenda James @
1-888-373-1555 for details

Resources

Introduction to ABI Online Series

- Available online at
www.abipartnership.sk.ca
- Provides basic level
knowledge about the
effects of brain injury and
strategies to help recovery
- Other resources also
available on this website

Sask North Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Services

1521 – 6th Ave West
Prince Albert, SK. S6V 5K1
Phone: 306-765-6630
Toll Free: 1-866-899-9951
Fax #: 306-765-6657

Caregiver's Corner

ABI Newsletter

-- by Sask North Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Services



Who Are All These Professionals & What Do They Do?

Recovery from a brain injury is typically a long and complex process. At each step along the road to recovery, the involvement of professionals knowledgeable in different aspects of brain injury is essential. The following are some of the key professionals you may encounter.

Neurologist – A neurologist is a medical doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders that affect the brain, spinal cord, and nerves. They do not perform surgery.

Neurosurgeon – A neurosurgeon is a medical doctor who specializes in performing surgical treatments to the brain or nervous system.

Physiatrist – A physiatrist is a medical doctor who specializes in physical medicine, rehabilitation and pain. They focus on the body's musculoskeletal system, which includes bones, joints, muscles, ligaments, tendons, and nerves. They aim to enhance and restore functional ability to individuals with physical impairments or disabilities.

Social Worker – A social worker offers support and counselling to individuals and families while in the hospital. They also help coordinate discharge plans and assist with the transition from hospital to home.

Neuropsychologist – A neuropsychologist is a psychologist who specializes in brain injury. They can perform a neuropsychological assessment to evaluate cognitive functions (such as remembering), which can be used to make predictions regarding an individual's abilities (such as the probability of success in an educational program).

Physical Therapist (PT) – A physical therapist evaluates physical abilities and motor control. They work toward improving an individual's functional movements (such as walking). They can also help train families in exercise programs, safe transferring techniques, and in the use of any equipment that individual's may need when walking.

Occupational Therapist (OT) – An occupational therapist evaluates and treats upper body strength and mobility, visual functioning, and the ability to safely perform activities of daily living (such as bathing). They may perform home visits to assess needs and make appropriate recommendations regarding adaptive equipment and structural changes for the home.

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Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) – A speech-language pathologist, also known as a speech therapist, assesses and treats speech, language, voice, fluency (stuttering), swallowing and feeding problems. They can also provide families with instruction on ways to improve interactions with individuals after a brain injury.

Recreation Therapist – A recreation therapist assists individual's to develop skills, knowledge and behaviors for daily living and community involvement. Therapeutic recreational programs offer individuals with a brain injury an opportunity to work on cognitive, social, and physical skills. Individuals can practice these skills while participating in structured leisure activities.

Dietician – A dietician assesses an individual's nutritional needs, monitors the daily intake of food and liquids, and provides for any special dietary needs. Dieticians can also counsel families about these nutritional needs and make specific diet recommendations for individuals with a brain injury.

Vocational Counsellor – A vocational counsellor assesses an individual's work potential. To do this, the counsellor takes into consideration current skills, interests, and any limitations that may be present after a brain injury. Recommendations are then made for suitable training and job placement.

Case Manager – A case manager works with individual's and their families to assess, plan, coordinate, evaluate, and advocate for services to meet their needs in the community after brain injury.

References:

Dikengil, Angela Tipton. (1994). Family Articles about Traumatic Brain Injury; "The Brain Injury Team". Communication Skill Builders, Inc.

Mateer, Catherine A. (1986). "Neuropsychological Assessment". Good Samaritan Hospital; Center for Cognitive Rehabilitation.

American Case Management Association. (2011) "Definition of Case Management".

Sask North Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Services

Sask North Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Services is a group of programs that offer a variety of services to residents in the Prince Albert Parkland, Kelsey Trail, Athabasca, Mamawetan Churchill River and Keewatin Yatthé Health Regions including case management, consultation, education and independent living services.

Program Admission Criteria

- Must have a diagnosis of a **moderate to severe** brain injury supported by medical records
- Be a resident of Saskatchewan or eligible for Saskatchewan Health coverage
- Are open to working cooperatively on goal-directed rehabilitation with ABI and other service providers
- Community agencies, employers, families and schools who require resources & support are eligible as well
- ** Priority will be given to applicants whose brain injury occurred within the past three (3) years
- ** Congenital brain injury or one that is a result of a progressive condition will not be considered

How to Access Services

- Participation in our program is **voluntary**
- Contact us @ 306-765-6630 or toll free @ 1-866-899-9951

