



Community Events

ABI Coffee Talk—Prince Albert

Join us for a morning of good conversation and learning.

- ⇒ Mondays (except stat holidays)
- ⇒ 10:30—11:45 AM

ABI Drop-In Program—Prince Albert

Join us for an afternoon of cards, games and fun.

- ⇒ Wednesdays (except stat holidays)
- ⇒ 1:30—3:30 PM

For more information or to sign up for these programs call Nicole @ 306-765-6480

Driving After an ABI

Brain injury often affects a person's ability to drive. Because driving is often taken for granted, families may be unaware of the potential for danger if a family member returns to driving without first being evaluated to determine that the skills necessary for operating a motor vehicle are in place.

After a brain injury, an individual may experience many physical &/or cognitive deficits that affect good driving. Reflexes may be slow, vision may be affected and problem-solving and decision-making abilities may be impaired.

There are other skills involved in driving than just starting, steering and stopping. In addition to the visual acuity needed, an individual must have intact perceptual skills (e.g. the ability to judge distances between cars) all while operating a rapidly moving vehicle. These skills need careful evaluation to ensure the safety of the driver and others on the road.

In Saskatchewan, all drivers are required to report to SGI if they have any medical conditions that may affect their ability to drive at the time they are diagnosed or at the time of licence renewal. Saskatchewan law has given SGI the mandate to determine who may drive.

Driving After an ABI — Continued

A doctor may advise an individual and their family about the individual's safety to drive. However, SGI must be notified of the individual's medical condition even if the doctor says they are safe to drive. If the medical condition is not reported and they are involved in a motor vehicle collision, their insurance coverage may not be valid.

To notify SGI, a Supplementary Medical Application form should be completed. The form can be found at any driver's licence issuer or on the SGI website (www.sgi.sk.ca). Once SGI receives the form, an individual's driving ability will be assessed by the Medical Review Unit (MRU). When a review by the MRU indicates that an individual's medical condition is affecting their driving ability, restrictions may be applied to ensure their continued safety. Driving privileges may also be suspended.



Driving Ability Assessment

To judge an individual's ability to drive, the MRU may request a medical report from physicians and optometrists about any sudden illnesses or ongoing medical conditions. Depending on the type of medical condition, the MRU may monitor the individual's condition &/or they may ask the individual to complete 1 or more of the following:

- ⇒ Written knowledge exam—basic driving theory &/or traffic sign test
- ⇒ Road test—an evaluation of your ability to safely drive a vehicle
- ⇒ Driver assessment programs

Driving assessment programs assess an individual's medical fitness to drive—the ability to operate a motor vehicle in a way that's safe for them and others on the road. Driving assessments typically include:

- ⇒ Review of driving history, driving needs, licence status and road knowledge
- ⇒ Review of medical history
- ⇒ Evaluation of vision, cognition, visual perceptual abilities, reaction time, ability to respond to different situations and to potential dangers
- ⇒ A road test will be completed if appropriate

Driving Assessment Programs — Continued

An individual may refer them self to a driving assessment program or someone else may provide a referral (e.g. family, physician, therapist, SGI, WCB, etc.). There is a fee for this service. When an assessment is completed, a report will be sent to the MRU outlining appropriate recommendations. Recommendations of the assessment will indicate:

- ⇒ Medical fitness to drive
- ⇒ If adaptive equipment, techniques or additional training may be beneficial
- ⇒ If further testing in the future is necessary or warranted

References:

Phyllis Goertz & Bryan Acton. (2000). The Survival Guide: Living with Acquired Brain Injury in the Community. Saskatoon Health District.

SGI. (2021). The Medical Review Unit. <https://www.sgi.sk.ca/medical-conditions>

Saskatchewan Health Authority. (2021). Driver Assessment Program. Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. <https://rqhealth.ca/departement/rehabilitation/driver-assessment-program-dap>

ABI Resources

- ⇒ Sask North Acquired Brain Injury Services onsite library
- ⇒ Acquired Brain Injury Partnership Project (www.abipartnership.sk.ca)
 - Video Series—Introduction to ABI
 - Book—The Survival Guide; Living with Acquired Brain Injury in the Community
- ⇒ Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (1-888-373-1555)
- ⇒ Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (heartandstroke.ca)
- ⇒ Brainstreams.ca
 - Blog Series—Between the Lines: Stories of Brain Injury Survivors
 - Podcast—Time to Talk Traumatic Brain Injury

Sask North Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Services

Sask North ABI Services is a group of programs that offer a variety of services to assist individuals, families and communities affected by an acquired brain injury. We provide services to residents in the areas formally known as Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, Kelsey Trail Health Region, Athabasca Health Authority, Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region and Keewatin Yatthe Health Region.

Program Admission Criteria

- ⇒ Must have a diagnosis of moderate to severe brain injury supported by medical records
- ⇒ Are open to working cooperatively on goal-directed rehabilitation; Participation in our program is voluntary
- ⇒ Priority is given to applicants whose brain injury occurred within the past three (3) years
- ⇒ Applicants with a congenital brain injury or one that is a result of a progressive condition will not be considered for services

How to Reach Us

1521—6th Ave West

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THE ABI PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Funded by:



Project Managed by:



Provides funding to 36 programs across Saskatchewan