

Brain Injury Survivor Information Kit

First Things First

No brain injury is too “mild” to ignore or too severe to lose hope. Every injury is different and every survivor recovers in their own way with unique needs. This information kit provides an overview of possible needs and supports. If you want additional information, please contact the Brain Injury Association of Wyoming.

First Things First

This is a checklist of possible contacts that may need to be made soon after the brain injury.
The hospital social worker can provide guidance as well.

Who to Contact:

Private Insurance Company or Medicare (covers people over 65 or people receiving Social Security Disability 2 years after qualifying for SSDI)

Contact Information:

Private Insurance varies per person – contact employer to get contact information.

Medicare – www.medicare.gov 1-800-medicare.

Reason for Contact:

Notify insurer of injury.

Questions to Ask/Information to Get:

- What medical and rehabilitation services are covered
 - What are the policy's preauthorization requirements, benefit limits, co-pays, restrictions, and reporting requirements
 - Get a list of preferred providers and find out how to use out of PPO providers
 - What kinds of rehabilitation are covered (PT, OT, Speech, Cognitive Rehabilitation, etc.)
 - How much rehabilitation is covered (in-patient and out-patient)
 - Is there mental health coverage
 - What are the procedures for appealing a decision
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Who to Contact:

Medicaid (Title 19)

Contact Information:

<http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com> 1-800-251-1269

Reason for Contact:

If survivor is covered by Medicaid, the above reason and questions should be followed. If the survivor has no insurance Medicaid in Wyoming can provide coverage for the following people/reasons:

- Children under age 19.
- Pregnant women.
- Parent(s) with a dependent child.
- Individuals in need of nursing home care
- Individuals who qualify for nursing home, but prefer care in their home
- Individuals who are hospitalized for 30 days
- Individuals who are in need of hospice care
- Individuals who are developmentally disabled
- Individuals who have an acquired brain injury (ABI Waiver – see below)
- Individuals who need care in an Assisted Living Facility
- Individuals who need assistance paying for Medicare premiums
- Non-citizens who need emergency services
- See web site for complete listing

Who to Contact:

Acquired Brain Injury Waiver

Contact Information:

<http://wdh.state.wy.us/ddd/adultacquiredwaiver/index.html> 1-307-777-3321

Reason for Contact:

Find out information about the ABI Waiver

Questions to Ask/Information to Get:

- Who can apply for the waiver
 - What are the financial requirements for qualification
 - How long does it take to apply
 - Is there a waiting list, how long is it
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Who to Contact:

Other insurance policies that may help you pay the medical bills: auto, home, umbrella, disability, long-term care, and workers' compensation.

Contact Information:

Other policies vary per person.

Worker' compensation - <http://doe.wyo.gov/aboutus/safetyandcompensation>
1-307-777-7441.

Questions to Ask/Information to Get:

- Is there coverage for this injury/how much
 - How do I submit claims
 - What are the policy's preauthorization requirements, benefit limits, co-pays, restrictions, and reporting requirements
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Who to Contact:

Social Security

Contact Information:

www.ssa.gov 1-800-772-1213

Reason for Contact:

Find out what benefits are available to the brain injury survivor and/or family members. Find out how and when to apply for Social Security Disability.

Who to Contact:

Department of Family Services

Contact Information:

<http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/default.aspx> 1-307-777-7747

Reason for Contact:

To see if they have any services that you may qualify for:

- Telephone Assistance Program
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Who to Contact:

Your personal attorney

Contact Information:

Varies

Reason for Contact:

Get a copy of any power of attorney, living will, health care directive or other legal documents. Learn about legal methods for managing finances and/or affairs for people over the age of 18.

Who to Contact:

Injury attorney

Contact Information:

Varies

Questions to Ask:

- Does the attorney have brain injury expertise
 - What do services cost and how does attorney expect to be paid
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Who to Contact:

Financial consultant (your banker, financial planner, or accountant)

Contact Information:

Varies

Reason for Contact:

To be able to access accounts, pay bills, and/or make deposits.

Questions to Ask:

- Who has access to accounts
 - What is needed to enable another person to access accounts
 - What bills are paid directly from accounts
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Who to Contact:

Mental health provider/counselor/spiritual advisor

Contact Information:

Varies, can be private practice, a counseling center or church

Reason for Contact:

Emotional and mental health needs for the brain injury survivor as well as family members and caregivers.

Questions to Ask:

- What are costs/does the provider bill insurance
 - Is there free support or group support available
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Who to Contact:

Support system – family, friends, co-workers, church

Contact Information:

Varies

Reason for Contact:

Let people know what support and help you need – most people WANT to help

Questions to Ask:

- Can you manage calls/mail/pet care
 - Can you sit at hospital to provide family/caregiver a break
 - Can you make some of the calls recommended in this list
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