

Supporting members. | Supporting people with ABI.



2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT

More than 18,000 Ontarians will suffer a brain injury this year.

Access to high quality services is critical to help them rebuild their health and their lives.

The Toronto ABI Network works with its membership of hospitals and community service organizations to ensure those services are available.

We manage over 1,200 referrals each year, helping members find and access inpatient rehab, community services and outpatient services for their clients. We act as a centralized resource of information, education and support for members and others who are working to meet the needs of people with acquired brain injury (ABI). And we provide a strong voice for ABI, looking across the system to identify where improvements are needed—and advocating for change.

**Supporting members.
Supporting people with ABI.**



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Optimize

transitions from hospital
to community



Enhance

service coordination and
integration for people
with complex needs



Strengthen

partnerships and
collaboration among
members



2019/20 INITIATIVES



Improving transitions from hospital to community

For people with acquired brain injury, leaving the hospital to return to life in the community is often challenging.

Hospitals can ease that transition with good planning and coordinated support, but every hospital manages the process differently. Too often there are gaps.

To address this, the Network developed a best practice guideline for transition planning that is specific to the unique challenges of ABI. *Hospital to Community Transition Planning for Acquired Brain Injury*

(ABI): A Best Practice Guideline lays out clear steps for acute and rehabilitation hospitals based on evidence and the experience of individuals with ABI and their families. Work is now underway on additional resources to help hospitals implement the best practices.

In addition, the Network launched a regular report on current wait times for ABI community services. The report, which will be updated several times a year, will help clinicians, individuals with ABI and their families as they plan transitions.

2019/20 INITIATIVES

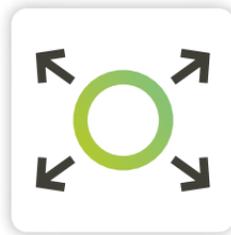
Some individuals with ABI face additional challenges related to mental health, addictions or other issues and experience barriers getting the specialized services they need. Service providers often have to coordinate support from multiple organizations, and community resources are limited.

The Network is leading advocacy efforts to address this gap. As a first step, the Network is gathering data on the challenges that individuals and their providers face when trying to access services. Working with members and other stakeholders, the Network developed a community

reporting form to report anonymized data on cases of unmet need. An inpatient form was also added for situations where individuals must remain in hospital because their complex needs cannot be addressed elsewhere.

Thanks to widespread interest in the initiative—including from Ontario's provincial ABI navigators—the Network is now collecting data from across Ontario. The Network is also working closely with the Ministry of Health on how to report the data and using the opportunity to raise awareness about the need for action.

Advocating
for services
for people with
complex needs



2019/20 INITIATIVES

Sharing

ABI knowledge and resources



The Network plays an important role in educating hospital and community organizations on the specialized needs of individuals with ABI.

Members and other organizations often call on this support. For example, this year, the Network provided an educational session on ABI for a hospital experiencing an increase in ABI admissions to general rehab beds. Another hospital requested training for staff on how to support ABI patients waiting for transfer to

a specialized program. The Network also worked with Cota to provide education on ABI services and referrals for care coordinators in the Toronto Central LHIN and to develop a resource guide for their use.

A centralized source of information, the Network provides health care professionals, providers and policy-makers with a better understanding of services, trends and needs across the ABI system in Toronto.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH SERVICES

2019

The Network provides a single point of entry for referrals to all community-based services. We also facilitate referrals to inpatient ABI rehabilitation for providers who don't have access to the Resource Matching and Referral (RM&R) system and help our members find appropriate health care and community resources for individuals with complex needs.

Family physicians, individuals with ABI and their families turn to us as well. We help them navigate the health care and social service system to find and access the support needed through the various stages of recovery.

181

REFERRALS ———
**to Inpatient
Rehabilitation**

For hospitals that do not have access to the Resource Matching and Referral (RM&R) system only

1,042

REFERRALS ———
**to Community/
Outpatient Services**

Includes community services, (e.g., clinical groups, recreational and supportive housing programs); outpatient ABI rehabilitation; ambulatory clinics

Data reflects referrals received by the Toronto ABI Network only and is not an indication of incidence or prevalence data. Referrals received for more than one service are counted for each service type.

A Strong Voice for ABI

CHAIR: HEDY CHANDLER

Community Head Injury Resource Services

ACUTE CARE

Mackenzie Health

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Unity Health Toronto/St. Michael's Hospital

University Health Network/Toronto Western

INPATIENT & DAY HOSPITAL REHABILITATION

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Sinai Health System/Bridgepoint Active Healthcare

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre/St. John's Rehab

University Health Network/Toronto Rehab

West Park Healthcare Centre

COMMUNITY SERVICE & SUPPORT

Community Head Injury Resource Services
Cota

March of Dimes Canada

Mind Forward Brain Injury Services

PACE Independent Living

EX OFFICIO

Brain Injury Association of Durham Region

Brain Injury Society of Toronto

Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation

University of Toronto

TORONTO ABI NETWORK STAFF

Charissa Levy, Executive Director*

Jennifer Carr, Administrative Assistant

Linda Ngan, Project Manager

Julie Osbelt, Referral Coordinator

TORONTO ABI NETWORK

700 Bay Street, Suite 601

Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z6

P: 416-597-3057

E: info@abinetwork.ca

*staff shared with GTA Rehab Network and the
Rehabilitative Care Alliance

www.abinetwork.ca