

Sunderland and Gateshead Community Acquired Brain Injury Service (CABIS)

Information for Referrers



What does Sunderland and Gateshead Community Acquired Brain Injury Service (CABIS) do?

The Sunderland and Gateshead CABIS provides specialist community rehabilitation services for people with mild (including post concussive), moderate or complex acquired brain injury (ABI), improving access to a range of services with the aim of:

- Reducing stigma and discrimination associated with diagnosis of, or treatment for brain injured disorders and disabilities.
- Providing signposting, information and support to facilitate access to a range of community based support services.
- Improving identification and awareness of brain injury symptoms
- Increasing the proportion of people who are identified, assessed and receive treatment in accordance with National Institute for Health Care Excellence (NICE) guidance/evidence based
- Improving access to neuro- psychological assessment and intervention by appropriately qualified clinicians.
- Improving the proportion of people who make a clinically significant improvement or recover.
- Improving emotional wellbeing, quality of life and functional ability in people with acquired brain injuries.
- Providing support and advice to carers.
- Improving access and support to maintain people in work or where necessary to help them to return to work, education, training or meaningful activity.
- Promoting onward referral for assessment and intervention where additional services are required.

The service offers specialist multi-disciplinary neuro-rehabilitation to individuals and their carers addressing comprehensive needs for functional and emotional support; advice and information; practical help with vocational issues, housing and benefits; and also assessment of support needs to assist statutory services in gauging necessary provision.

The service provides in-reach consultancy services to the teams working with patients in **Sunderland Royal and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals**, facilitating earlier discharge from tertiary centres.

In summary, the CABIS service offers:

- In-reach consultancy services to patients in local hospitals with acquired brain injury
- Services for patients who are currently experiencing difficulties in the community as a result of difficulties associated with an acquired brain injury.
- Assessment and consultancy for patients whose behaviour is considered challenging and it is suspected that an acquired brain injury may be a contributory factor.
- Collaborative assessment and intervention for patients with an acquired brain injury whose input is primarily from other services (for example drug and alcohol or psychiatry services, falls teams).
- Assessment and consultancy to adults seen by Probation Services.

What are the referral criteria?

Referrals will be accepted on the basis that:

- The patient is 16 years or older
- The acquired brain injury can be caused by trauma (head injury closed or open); an infective illness (for example meningitis and encephalitis); pathogens (for example alcohol/poisoning); and anoxia (for example hanging or cardiac arrest)
- The patient is registered with a GP within Sunderland or Gateshead CCG.
- The patient requires specialist assessment and possibly rehabilitation due to symptoms associated with acquired brain injuries being a feature of the presenting problem and not based on scan results alone.
- The patient is medically stable or risk factors can be adequately managed in a supportive/appropriate environment for rehabilitation.
- Interventions are able to take place at a time and place without undue risk to staff or other patients/residents, carers.
- Patients currently in hospital and requiring rehabilitation on their return to the community or alternative setting

- referrals for those who have sustained an injury/infection/anoxia in approximately the last 2 years
- Those in crisis

The service will take referrals irrespective of the pathway followed by the individual. There are a high number of people who suffer ABI who have pre-morbid and existing problems with addiction to alcohol and/or drugs, this population will not be excluded from provision and will receive all the elements of service available. However, the environment in which this can be provided will need to be considered on a case by case basis.

Where problems experienced by the client are principally due to their addiction rather than the ABI, the team will refer on to the relevant service and continue to support with the difficulties within the team's remit if necessary.

Protocols for admission/triage into specialist rehabilitation will be multidisciplinary, reviewed regularly, and include suggestions of future management of those not accepted into specialist rehabilitation services with responses to the referring agent /primary care.

How to refer?

Referrals are through a single point of contact. Please telephone the service on 0191 5665650. Alternatively you can contact us via email on NTAWNT.CabisTeam@nhs.net however please be mindful of the information you are sending in this way and ensure that it is coming to us from a secure email address.

Who to refer?

Referrals are accepted from:

- GPs and primary care staff
- Hospital Consultants and other qualified members of the rehabilitation MDT (in patient/outpatient services)
- Family and carer support workers
- Patients and their carers if already known to the service and meeting the referral criteria.

If you would like advice from the team to determine whether a referral is appropriate please contact us on 0191 5665650.

Exclusion criteria

- Progressive neurological conditions and stroke where new ABI symptoms are not present
- Where it is identified that ABI is not the cause of the presenting problems and that other services would be more appropriate, for example where someone has a long term history of head injury and presents with mental health problems.
- Patients only requiring interventions of one discipline eg physiotherapy

What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

If you want to make a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint you can:

- talk to the people directly involved in your care
- ask a member of staff for a feedback form, or complete a form on the Trust website www.ntw.nhs.uk (click on the 'Contact Us' tab)
- telephone the Complaints Department Tel: 0191 245 6672
- email complaints@ntw.nhs.uk Please note that information sent to the Trust via email is sent at your own risk
- We are always looking at ways to improve services. Your feedback allows us to monitor the quality of our services and act upon issues that you bring to our attention.

You can provide feedback in the following ways:

- the quickest way for you to do this is to complete our short online survey at

www.ntw.nhs.uk/poy

- complete a Points of You survey, available on wards, reception areas or from staff.

- some areas of the Trust have electronic feedback touch screens, staff can help you to use these.

Contact details

Sunderland and Gateshead Community Acquired Brain Injury Service

Monkwearmouth Hospital
Newcastle Road
Sunderland
SR5 1NB

and

Gateshead Health Centre
Prince Consort Road
Gateshead
NE8 1NB

Telephone: 0191 5665650

Fax: 0191 5665651

Email: NTWAWNT.CabisTeam@nhs.net

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www.ntw.nhs.uk

Telephone Switchboard: 08448115522

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