4 Ts

Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) for the Head

504 Plan, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Abuse
A written plan developed by a general education school committee outlining accommodations to be made by a K-12 or post-secondary school that receives federal funds for a student with a disabling condition that substantially limits a major life activity.

Elements affecting sexual energy within a marriage.

The willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish. This also includes the deprivation by an individual, including a caretaker, of goods or services that are necessary to attain or maintain physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being.

A one-time measure of head injury severity, ranging from 1 (minor) to 6 (unsurvivable). It is part of a larger system of anatomical scoring called the Injury Severity Score.

Available at https://sl-507-3.slc.westdc.net/~ireneher/Publications.php
Abusive head trauma (AHT)

Academic (analytical) intelligence

Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences (ANCDS)

Acceleration-deceleration forces
Ability to solve problems in academic (classroom) settings.

A traumatic brain injury, resulting from a non-accidental injury, involving violence against an individual. It is a broad term that includes head trauma from shaking only (shaken baby syndrome) as well as any type of blunt force to the head or combination of the two (shaken impact syndrome).

Sudden impact following a high velocity of speed, frequently resulting in brain injury.

A professional organization that certifies practitioners (primarily speech-language pathologists) who specialize in neurologic communication disorders.
Accreditation

Acculturation

Acquired brain injury (ABI)

Action potential
The process of learning the manners and style of the dominant and prevailing culture including the experiences and changes that groups and individuals undergo when they come in contact with different cultures. Acculturation occurs in the context of continuous contact for extended periods of time of two or more groups from different cultures.

A process in which certification of competency, authority, or credibility is presented.

An electrical impulse generated by the communication of one neuron to another.

An injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma.
Activities of daily living (ADL)

Activity limitations

Acute care

Adaptability
Tasks that cannot be fully executed by a person with a disability. 

Dressing, eating, showering, toileting, walking.

People's capacity to change their behaviors in order to adapt to changes in their internal or external environment. 

Care provided in a hospital setting until the person is medically stable.
Adduction

Adenosine triphosphate (ATP)

Administrative law

Advocacy
Transports chemical energy within cells to fuel metabolic processes.

Movement towards the mid-line of the body, in contrast to abduction, which is movement away from the mid-line of the body.

The act of publicly supporting or speaking on behalf of a person, cause, action, legislation, etc.

Laws created by administrative agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, by statute, Congress, or the state legislature. Such laws authorize an agency to create its own rules or regulations.
Feeling or emotion.

An individual or organization who serves on behalf of an individual.

The unpleasant state of high excitement leaving a person feeling confused, nervous, tense, etc.

Tracts of nerves that send information toward the central nervous system.
Agnosia  

Agonist  

Air Evacuation (AE)  

Airborne pathogens
A chemical that binds to a receptor, activating it to produce a biological response.

The lack of awareness of sensations and the inability to recognize objects. Agnosias can be specific to color, familiar faces or general objects.

Infectious microbes small enough to be transmitted from person to person when an infected individual coughs, sneezes, or laughs.

A sophisticated medical evacuation system, transporting injured service members via air transport to appropriate levels of care.
Akinesia

Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

Alcohol, Smoking and Substance-use Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)

Allied health professionals
A 10-question instrument used to get information on the amount of a patient’s drinking, the symptoms of dependence, and alcohol's harmful effects on their life.

Slowness or loss of voluntary movement; often a result of damage to the basal ganglia.

Professionals working in the health care industry in disciplines other than medicine, nursing and pharmacy. For example, allied health professionals may include medical interpreters, orthotists, audiologists, physical therapists, clinical psychologists, nutritionists, medical social workers, etc.

A screening tool developed by the WHO to assess high-risk use of alcohol and other drugs in adults (for use in medical care settings).
Allodynia

Allogeneic

Alteration in mental state

Alteration of consciousness (AOC)
Derived from the same species, but genetically not identical (such as human bone or skin grafts).

A type of pain that is triggered by a stimulus from something that would not normally provoke pain.

Reduction in arousal and responsiveness to stimuli as a result of a medical condition or trauma; may present as confusion, lethargy, obtundence (less than full alertness), or stupor; intracranial hemorrhage is one cause of AOC.

When someone feels dazed, experiences confusion, is uncertain while answering simple questions, has decreased clear thinking, and is not able to describe what happened prior to or after injury.
Alternating attention

Alzheimer’s disease (AD)

American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM)

American Association of Nurse Life Care Planners (AANLCP)
The most common form of dementia; progressively worsens. The most common early symptom is short-term memory loss.

The ability to shift between tasks that demand different behavioral or cognitive skills.

A nonprofit professional organization for nurses who have become certified as life care planners.

A professional organization dedicated to the subspecialty of sleep medicine and the treatment of sleep disorders.
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Amygdala

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
A federal law enacted in 1990 that prohibits discrimination against a person with a disability in employment, state and local government; mandates public accommodations in commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. The ADA’s main goal is to keep Americans with disabilities in the mainstream of society.

An interdisciplinary organization of rehabilitation professionals supporting research promoting health, independence, and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

A condition developed by some athletes with repetitive concussive injuries; involves degeneration of the brain and spinal cord.

Part of the limbic system; closely tied with emotional memories and reactions, including aggressive responses and the fight-or-flight response.
Anhedonia

Anorgasmia

Anosognosia

Anoxia
The inability to achieve orgasm. This sexual problem is more common in females (especially post-menopausal females) and is rare in younger men. Anorgasmia may be linked to medical disorders, psychological disorders, genital mutilation, or side effects of certain anti-depressant medications.

A telltale symptom of depression in which the depressed individual experiences a loss of interest in things they previously enjoyed (e.g., a music professor who is no longer interested in working on a composition or a gardener who loses interest in tending her plants).

The absence of oxygen supply to tissue or an organ; results in cell death.

Lack of awareness or denial of paralysis of a limb or of the limb itself.
Antecedent

Antecedent-based behavior model

Anterior

Anterior and posterior spinocerebellar tracts
An evidence-based behavior modification practice.

A term used in behavioral psychology to describe a contextual cue that results in a behavior; part of the three term contingency (antecedent-behavior-consequence).

These afferent nerve tracts send information to the cerebellum, helping to interpret proprioception. These tracts are located laterally in the spinal cord and just anterior or posterior to the midline, as the names suggest.
Anterior cingulate

Anterior cord syndrome

Anterior corticospinal tract

Anterior longitudinal ligament
A common spinal cord syndrome; marked by a loss of muscle control, pain, and temperature sensation, but without loss of proprioception and touch sensation.

The frontal part of the cingulate cortex (part of the corpus callosum) that regulates certain autonomic functions, including blood pressure and heart rate. It also plays a role in empathy, impulse control, reward anticipation, and decision-making.

Ligament connecting the spinal column; runs in front of the vertebral bodies.

Efferent nerve bundle located in the ventral-medial cord; carries impulses from the motor cortex to muscles and organs.
Anterior spinal artery

Anterograde amnesia

Anti-cholinergic

Anxiety
Inability to create new memories following the event that caused the amnesia.

A large artery that is fed mainly from the aorta; runs anterior to the spinal cord and provides blood supply to it.

A condition characterized by feelings of fear or worry; may be associated with other symptoms such as fatigue, irritability, muscle tension, restlessness, decreased concentration, and changes in sleep.

A class of drugs that block the action of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine in the CNS and peripheral nervous system.
Apathy

 Aphasia

Apneic

APOEe4
Loss of ability to understand (receptive) or produce (expressive) language.

A lack of concern, feeling, or emotion; general disinterest. A symptom of major depression.

The genetic allele associated with increased risk for Alzheimer’s Disease.

Not breathing for a short time.
An electronic application designed to operate on smart phones, tablets, and other mobile devices.

A naturally occurring process that involves a controlled sequence of steps that tell a cell to terminate itself; cell death.

Inability to perform purposive actions due to damage in certain areas of the brain.

Qualified sign language; oral, relay, or tactile interpreters; video interpreting services; qualified note-takers; computer-assisted real time transcription services; written materials; telephone handset amplifiers; assistive listening devices; and much more.
Apraxia of speech

Arachidonic acid cascade

Arachnoid mater

Areflexic bowel
A complicated process in which the body responds to chemical reactions of prostaglandins, leukotriene, and other substances to produce an inflammatory response in the body.

An oral motor speech disorder in which a person cannot translate what they want to say into motor plans to initiate speech.

Decreased reflex control of the anal sphincter due to damage to nerves that exit the lumbar or sacral areas of the spinal cord.

The spider web-like middle layer of the meninges.
Arousal

Arteries

Arterio-ventricular block

Articulation
Blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart.  

The state of high alertness either physically or mentally.

A juncture between bones or cartilages.  

Impairment of conduction between the atrium and ventricles of the heart muscle.
Ascending reticular activating system (ARAS)

Assimilation

Assistive technology for cognition (ATC)

Astrocytes
Complete adaptation to a host society, taking on the values of that society, and rejecting one’s original values.

Part of the reticular activating system, which is a set of connected nuclei in the brain responsible for regulating arousal and sleep-wake transitions.

Star-shaped glial cells that serve to provide nutrients and maintain ion balance; these play a role in repair and scar formation in the brain and spinal cord following traumatic injury.

Low-tech systems (e.g., calendars, Post-it notes, clocks, timers), high-tech mainstream devices (e.g., smartphones, tablets, cell phones), and complex specialized systems (e.g., PEAT, BrainBook) that assist persons with brain injury as well as non-injured individuals in managing day-to-day tasks.
Ataxia

Athetoid movements

Atlanto-occipital joint

Atlas
Slow, involuntary writhing movements of the hands, feet, fingers, and toes; usually caused by lesions to the brain.

A lack of muscle coordination during voluntary movements that typically impacts activities such as walking (if lower limb involvement) or picking up objects (if upper limb involvement).

The first cervical vertebra; supports the skull.

Where the first cervical vertebra connects to the head at the base of the skull.
Atrophy

Attention Process Training Program (APT3)

Auditory cortex

Auditory stimuli
A neurorehabilitative program developed by Sohlberg and Mateer featuring attention exercises for people with mild-to-severe attention deficits secondary to acquired brain injuries.

Weakness or wasting away of muscles due to disuse.

A sound stimulus produced to determine the ability to hear and understand.

The part of the brain, located in the temporal lobes, which processes auditory information.
Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metric (ANAM)

Autonomic dysfunction syndrome

Autonomic dysregulation

Avoidance
A problem with the autonomic nervous system that controls processes such as digestion, heart rate, the immune system and more.

20 minute computerized neuropsych battery that is given to each service member prior to deployment; may be repeated following injury to assess for differences in pre- and post-injury status.

The practice of staying away or withdrawing from something or someone that may trigger intrusion symptoms of a traumatic event, including becoming more suspicious, reacting angrily towards threatening people, and taking defensive actions in order to prevent re-experiencing the traumatic event.

Involuntary, automatic changes in body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing caused by a malfunctioning of the autonomic nervous system.
Avolition  

Awareness

Axial  

Axis
A state in which a person is conscious of the environment around them.

A lack of motivation or initiative.

The second vertebra; allows for movement of the head on the horizontal plane.

Horizontal plane.
Axis I Disorders

Axis II Disorders

Axon

Axonal shearing
This diagnosis refers to personality disorders and intellectual disabilities; some diagnoses include Antisocial Personality Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder.

This diagnosis refers to clinical disorders such as depression, anxiety, phobias, etc.

A condition of damage to axons, as a result of being twisted and disconnected in a violent agitating motion.

Long extension of a neuron which that sends signals electrochemically from one neuron to another.
Ballisms

Barrow Neurological Institute Fatigue Scale (BNI Fatigue Scale)

Basal ganglia

Baseline
A 10-item scale measuring energy and alertness on a 7-point scale, from 0-1 (rarely a problem) to 6-7 (a problem most of the time), with a final item rating overall fatigue on a 10-point scale.

A movement disorder characterized by quick, flailing movements.

An initial measurement; change is measured against this initial point of reference (e.g., a baseline mammogram is done at age 40; subsequent changes as a woman ages are measured against this initial measurement.)

Coordinates physical movements by relaying information from the cerebral cortex to the brain stem and cerebellum.
Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI)

Beck Depression Inventory

Benchmarking

Benign neglect
A 21-item multiple-choice assessment to measure severity of depression. The BDI is one of the most widely used instruments by both researchers and health care professionals, and is based on self-report of the person being assessed. The BDI is a copyrighted tool; thus, a fee must be paid prior to use.

For more information, visit http://www.beckinstitute.org/beck-inventory-and-scales/

A 21-item assessment to measure a prolonged state of anxiety with subjective, somatic and panic subscales. Fifteen of the 21 items measure physiological symptoms, making it a useful tool in diagnosing panic disorders; however the cognitive, affective, and behavioral components of anxiety are deemphasized in the BAI.


Medical staff discomfort or inexperience in treating certain patients or conditions (without intended malice).

The process of measuring one agency or organization’s performance metrics against others designated as leaders in the same industry.
Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV)

Best practices

Binocular vision

Biopsychosocial model
Methods that have reliably shown results superior to those achieved by other means.

A disorder of the inner ear resulting in positional vertigo, causing a spinning sensation; an episode of mild-to-extreme dizziness that is a result of a change in position of the head.

A model of human behavior that takes into consideration biological, cognitive-affective, social interpersonal, and cultural factors and social institutions.

How the eyes are working together; deficits in this area can result in double vision.
Bipolar affective disorder  

Bipolar I  

Bisacodyl suppository
Diagnosed upon the presence of one or more manic episodes.

A psychiatric condition in which people vacillate between states of mania and depression.

A stimulant laxative administered through the rectum frequently used for management of neurogenic bowel dysfunction.

Characterized by one or more depressive episodes followed by one or more hypomanic episodes.
Blast injury (or blast-induced neurotrauma)

Blood-brain barrier

Blast Plus (+)

Body image
Injury mechanism resulting from a combination of blast and blunt traumatic mechanisms.

Complex primary and secondary damage to the brain caused by shock waves emanating from the blast of an explosion, rocking the brain within the skull, i.e., injury resulting directly or indirectly from explosion.

A subjective view of one’s own body.

Protective system ensuring that, at the vascular level, harmful substances cannot pass through the membrane to harm the brain.
Bradycardia

Bradykinin

Brain arteriovenous malformation (AVM)

Brain hypothesis
A peptide that causes blood vessels to enlarge, thus causing a fall in blood pressure.

The brain is responsible for all behaviors and the overall conscious experience of the organism.

Very slow heart rate.

An abnormal connection between arteries and veins; usually a congenital defect.
Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA)

Brain Injury Family Intervention (BIFI)

Brain Injury Family Intervention-Adolescents (BIFI-A)

Brain Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group (BI-ISIG)
An intervention intended to enhance family functioning by improving family member psychological well-being, life satisfaction, and access to services.

A national organization with state affiliates that advocates for the needs of individuals with brain injury.

An interdisciplinary subgroup of rehabilitation professionals who are members of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM).

The adolescent version of BIFI that encompasses education, skill-building, and emotional support in which family members are provided with education about brain injury and its impact on the family, information about adolescent development, and how brain injury affects the developmental process.
Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)

Brainstem

Broca’s area

Brown-Sequard syndrome
The posterior part of the brain, made up of three structures

A protein in the neurotrophin family of growth factors that promotes neurogenesis.

Occurs when only one side of the spinal cord is injured or damaged, preserving the other side; symptoms include ipsilateral paralysis, loss of light touch sensation on the side of the lesion, and loss of pain and temperature sensation on the contralateral side.

A part of the brain located in the lower portion of the motor cortex in the left frontal–temporal lobe. Broca’s area controls the muscles of the face and mouth, enabling the production of speech.
CAGE

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

Care management

Case management
A lifesaving technique involving the use of compressions of the chest to assure blood circulation and rescue breathing to provide oxygenation to the blood in cases of cardiac arrest or drowning.

A well-validated four-question scheme to screen for potential alcoholism. Useful for adults, but not for adolescents.

A collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, evaluation, and advocacy for options and services to meet an individual’s and family’s comprehensive health needs through communication and available resources to promote quality cost-effective outcomes.

A broad concept referring to a continuous system of care for a particular condition; ensures a seamless transition to the right services and the right providers at the right time.
Case Management Society of America (CMSA)

Cataplexy

Catatonia

Categorization Program
A characteristic and unique feature of narcolepsy. It is described by sudden loss of bilateral muscle tone; the duration of cataplexy is usually short, ranging from a few seconds to several minutes.

A nonprofit association that focuses on the support and development of case managers as a profession.

A neurorehabilitative program developed by Dr. Constantinidou of the Center for Applied Neuroscience, University of Cypress.

A symptom of mental illness in which there is rigidity of muscle tone, sometimes in odd positions, and a complete lack of responsiveness to stimuli, despite consciousness.
Catheter

Cauda equina

Causal

Causes of Fatigue Questionnaire (COF)
Refers to the nerves that project out from the bottom of the spinal cord, beginning in the lumbar region, and continuing through the sacral region (literally meaning horse tail).

A tube that can be inserted into a body cavity, duct, or vessel.

This 12-item instrument documents the extent to which a broad range of physical and mental activities may cause fatigue on a 5-point scale.

Relating to, constituting, or implying a cause.
Ceiling effect

Cell body

Cellulitis

Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)
The main part of a neuron.

A term used when the assessment is too easy and many individuals receive the highest score. A sample of individuals that returned home to live independently would probably have a ceiling effect in a measure of their eye-opening capabilities.

A widely used instrument to measure depression. The revised version (CESD-R) is in the public domain and is available for use free of charge at http

Localized skin infection that is warm, red, swollen, and tender; fever, chills and swollen glands may be present and the area may get larger or develop red streaks extending from it. Prompt medical attention is required.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Central cord syndrome

Central nervous system (CNS)

Central sensitization
A condition whose symptoms include weakness and numbness, primarily in the arms rather than the legs, and often are accompanied by bowel and bladder incontinence.

A national public health institute under the USDHHS, which focuses on infectious diseases, environmental health, occupational health and safety, health promotion, injury prevention, and food-borne pathogens.

The activation of higher order neurons from the central nervous system, amplifying the pain already experienced by an individual.

Made up of the brain and spinal cord combined.
Central sleep apnea

Cerebellum

Cerebral cortex

Cerebral edema
Part of the brain involved in control of voluntary muscular movements.

This condition is characterized by the decreasing or stopping of breaths during sleep and is usually associated with decreased oxygen in the blood. Individuals may also gasp, grunt, or choke during sleep, and appear restless while sleeping as well. May be related to changes in the feedback loop from lung to brain.

Swelling of the brain.

Thin layer of gray matter covering the brain, primarily made up of cell bodies of neurons.
Cerebral vascular accident (CVA)

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)

Cerebrum

Certified Life Care Planner (CLCP)
Fluid that bathes the brain and spinal cord.

The medical term for a stroke; a disturbance of the blood supply to the brain, resulting in a loss of brain function (which may be temporary or permanent).

In order to be certified as a life care planner, candidates are expected to complete a minimum of 120 hours of approved training that is in compliance with ICHCC standards and have expertise in research, development, coordination, integration, interpretation, and management of such plans for people with catastrophic disabilities.

The largest part of the brain, consisting of two hemispheres.
Certified Nurse Life Care Planner (CNLCP)

Cervical

Cervicalgia

Charges
Pertaining to the neck.

Registered nurses with specific training in Life Care Planning who have met rigorous certification standards.

Costs of medical and treatment services, levels of care, durable medical equipment and supplies, and other specific treatment modalities needed to maximize recovery and proactively manage life post-injury.

Simple neck pain; frequently associated with mTBI and, when not treated swiftly, commonly causes both headaches and chronic pain syndromes.
Choreiform

Choroid plexus

Chronic headache

Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)
Brain structure where cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is created.

An involuntary movement disorder characterized by continuous, rapid unpredictable movements.

Also known as dementia pugilistica, CTE refers to a condition, diagnosed after death, relative to multiple concussions caused by significant force. A progressive degenerative disease, CTE is most often sustained by athletes participating in contact sports, where it is sometimes termed punch drunk. May also be observed in domestic violence victims or abused children who have sustained numerous blows to the head.

Headaches that occur at least 15 days per month for at least 3 months.
Circadian rhythm

Cisterns

Clinical neuropsychology

Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)
Areas of separation of the pia mater and arachnoid mater that are filled with CSF.

Biological rhythm controlled by a biological clock, regulating bodily functions, including sleep.

Recommendations for clinicians to provide care of specific conditions; often based on research and practice.

The study of persons with brain lesions (as a result of brain trauma, tumors, degenerative neurological conditions, neurotoxins, infection, or brain surgery); often uses specialized testing procedures to relate behavior changes to lesion sites and specific brain mechanisms.
Clonic jerks

Clonus

Closed injuries

Clostridium difficile
Involuntary rhythmic muscular contractions and relaxations caused by lesions in upper motor neurons.

Spasms frequently observed in seizures resulting in uncontrollable jerking; after the spasms stop, the person lets out a deep sigh and normal breathing resumes.

Infectious diarrhea caused by the bacterium C. difficile.

Injury to the brain resulting in brain lacerations, contusions, or intracerebral hemorrhage.
Coccyx

Cochlea

Cognition

Cognitive distance
The auditory portion of the inner ear; shaped like a snail.

The tail bone.

The presence of unequal, unrelated, or contrasting thoughts and understanding that frequently results in increased and excessive mental stress and discomfort.

Conscious mental activity such as thinking, remembering, learning or using language.
Cognitive rehabilitation

Cognitive skill memory

Cognitive training

Coma
Memory for procedures necessary to win a game or solve a problem.

A systematically applied set of medical and therapeutic services, the form of neuropsychological treatment for persons with brain injury that aims to enhance overall functioning and quality of life.

A state of unconsciousness that can last for long periods of time, ranging from days to years; a condition caused by a severe brain injury or resulting brain swelling, leaving a patient unaware of their surroundings and unable to respond to even simple commands.

Cognitive rehabilitation component that focuses on resolving the cognitive and functional deficits through the application of restorative approaches.
Combat stress

Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Common Data Elements (CDE)

Common law
The accrediting body for rehabilitation centers in the United States.

Short-term psychological or physiological reactions exhibited during or after exposure to combat; symptoms may render a service member temporarily unable to function; not a psychiatric disorder like PTSD, but a normal reaction. Symptoms may include hyperventilation, choking sensation, palpitations, and increased pulse (fight, flight, freeze response).

The body of laws developed from court decisions.

Specific standards for data being captured in the neurological research community to standardize data collection and to facilitate data sharing. For example, the common data element for year of initial diagnosis would have the same definition across data collectors, and would be coded as a four-digit numeric value.

More information on CDEs can be found at www.commondataelements.ninds.nih.gov
Community enfranchisement

Community integrated rehabilitation (CIR)

Co-morbid

Compensatory
Post-acute brain injury rehabilitation programs designed to support persons with brain injury in the community. CIR programs often include neurobehavioral programs, residential programs, comprehensive holistic (day treatment) programs and, more recently, home-based programs.

Based on the premise of adaptability, a form of cognitive rehabilitation designed to minimize the effect of deficits and recover a degree of function by developing environmental, internal, and external strategies that make use of residual, intact abilities and relative strengths.

The extent to which the person feels he or she has options and control over participation, feels a part of the community, and feels valued.

The presence of one or more disorders or diseases occurring simultaneously.
Compensatory strategies

Competency

Computed tomography (CT)

Concomitant
The ability of an individual to make informed decisions about health care, legal and financial matters, etc.

Behavioral or environmental strategies used to help those with impaired cognitive skills, such as memory or attention; may include the use of assistive devices, technology, orthoses, and new habits to compensate for functional deficits.

Co-occurring.

A cross-sectional series of X-rays used to view body organs, allowing medical professionals to view the scans in multiple individual layers; some scans can be reconstructed into a 3-D image.
Concussion

Confabulation

Consequence (C)

Consequence-based interventions
A memory disturbance in which fabricated or distorted memories are present, in the absence of intent to deceive.

A mild TBI caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head; can potentially alter the way the brain works.

These involve implementing a systematic intervention wherein the target behavior is followed by a specific kind of consequence.

Any event that changes the probability of the response in the future; part of the four-term contingency. There are two main types of consequences.
Consequence-based programming

Consolidation

Constitutional law

Constraint-induced movement therapy (CIMT)
The transfer of information from working memory to long-term memory.

In rehabilitation, this term refers to interventions focused on learning.

A method in rehabilitative therapy designed to increase function in extremities by increasing the use of the injured part, and reducing the use of the unimpaired limb.

The body of laws based on the United States Constitution, as well as the constitution of the state where the person lives.
Contingency

Contractures

Contralateral

Contrecoup effect
The abnormal, usually permanent condition of joints characterized by decreased range of motion, often in a flexed position, and fixation due to wasting away and shortening of muscle fibers and loss of skin elasticity.

Impact injury resulting from the moving head striking a stationary object. Injury occurs at the side of the head opposite the point of impact.

Something liable to happen as an adjunct to, or result of, something else.

On the opposite side of the body.
Controlled substances

Conus medullaris

CONUS

Convergence insufficiency
The tapered, lower end of the spinal cord; usually in L1-L2 in adults.

Narcotics and other drugs that have a medical use but a tendency to produce dependency, and are thus controlled by government agencies to inhibit widespread use and distribution.

A condition in which the eyes cannot focus effectively together, creating difficulty with reading, and triggering headaches.

Continental United States.
Coping hypothesis

Corpus callosum

Cortices

Costo-vertebral junctions
A complex band of nerve fibers that exchanges information between the two hemispheres.

The idea that fatigue may result from the compensatory effort necessary to meet the demands of everyday life in the presence of cognitive deficits, including impaired attention and speed of information processing.

Where the ribs and spine meet.

Plural form of cortex.
Coup injury

CPAP

CRAFFT

Craig Handicap Assessment and Reporting Technique (CHART)
Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine, often recommended for patients with sleep apnea to improve oxygen intake during sleep.

Head injury resulting from impact of a moving object. Injury occurs at the site of impact.

The CHART measures participation after disability (encompassing the roles of an individual in the larger community). The CHART is made up of 32 questions and covers six domains (Physical Independence, Cognitive Independence, Mobility, Occupation, Social Integration, and Economic Self-Sufficiency).

A screening measure designed for adolescents, assessing misuse of both alcohol and other drugs.

Craig Handicap Assessment and Reporting Technique Short Form (CHART SF)

Cranial nerve

Craniectomy

Cranioplasty
A nerve that descends directly from the brain or brainstem.

The CHART SF has 19 items that yield the same scores as the original CHART across the six domains.

A neurosurgical procedure during which the preserved bone flap or prosthetic bone is replaced after previous removal by means of a craniectomy.

A neurosurgical intervention in which a portion of bone from the cranium is removed in an attempt to relieve increasing intracranial pressure. The typical craniectomy is a hemicraniectomy, during which a portion of bone from one side of the head is removed. Following removal, the skin flap is placed over the defect.
Craniotomy

Crepitus

Crystallized intelligence

Culture
The medical term used to describe the cracking, popping, or grating noise underneath the skin and joints due to arthritis, bone fracture, or small particles in the bursa sac.

A surgical incision into the skull; frequently used prior to placement of a shunt or an intraventricular catheter.

Any group that shares a theme or set of issues; can entail social mores from countries of origin, as well as languages, food, clothing, music, art, dance, the influence of history and traditions; these social mores and historical traditions and beliefs are handed down from one generation to another.

The knowledge and skills accumulated over a lifetime.
Cyclothymia

DAVOS

Decerebration

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)
The typical pattern of sexual expression.

A milder form of bipolar affective disorder in which the person has mood swings from high to low over a period of years.

A blood clot in any deep veinous part of the circulatory system.

Loss of cerebral brain function.
Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)

Delayed ejaculation

Delayed orgasm

Dementia
A condition in which it takes a prolonged period of time for a man to reach ejaculation; often caused by chronic health conditions, certain medications, or psychological factors.

Established by Congress in 1992, the DVBIC integrates specialized care for, as well as research and prevention education on, brain injury; the DVBIC coordinates care between the DoD, the VA, and civilian health care systems.

A loss of brain function that occurs with certain diseases; may affect memory, thinking, language, judgment, and behavior.

A term that is not well-defined in the literature; in men, it is often referred to as delayed ejaculation; in women, it is often related to an insufficient amount of stimulation (almost never the cause for men). May be linked to medications, medical conditions, or other psychological factors.
An upward projection of the axis that inserts into the atlas.

Branching extensions of the neuron that receive information from axons.

Federally-mandated and funded agency that provides programs and services to individuals who meet the federal definition of developmental disabilities covering persons whose disability occurs before age 22 (the age varies state to state) and includes a mental or physical impairment or a combination of both. There must be a substantial limitation in three or more of these major life areas: self-care; expressive or receptive language; learning; mobility; capacity for independent living; economic self-sufficiency; and self-direction.

Part of the hippocampus that formulates episodic memory; one of the areas of neurogenesis demonstrated in adult rats.
Deployment

Dermatitis

Diabetes insipidus (DI)

Diagnostic nerve block
General term for inflammation of the skin.

The movement of forces from one military theater to another.

A procedure performed by an anesthesiologist to numb a particular nerve in the body. Sometimes used as a diagnostic tool to identify the source of the pain.

Caused by problems related to antidiuretic hormone (ADH); causes frequent urination. Not related to diabetes mellitus.
Diaphoresis

Diencephalon

Diffuse axonal injury (DAI)

Diffuse injury
Master relay center of the brain; forwards information, sensations, and movement.

Excessive sweating.

Widespread, not localized, damage in the brain.

Brain injury occurring when the white matter tracts are stretched and broken, resulting in extensive, widespread damage.
Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI)  Digital stimulation

Dilation  Diplophia
Stimulation of a bowel movement by insertion of a finger into the rectum. Digital stimulation is also sometimes used to stimulate vomiting by insertion of a finger deep into the throat.

An MRI method that maps the diffusion of molecules, primarily water, in a person's body non-invasively.

Double vision.

Widening or opening (e.g., dilation of the pupil of the eye, widening of the cervix in childbirth, etc.).
Disability Rating Scale (DRS)

Discriminative stimulus (SD)

Discrimination

Discs
(1) the ability to discriminate which behaviors are appropriate and which are not in a given situation.

(2) a negative behavior toward a group or its members based upon their categorization.

An 8-item assessment of impairment, disability, and handicap or participation. The participation section includes an item on employability; the DRS is in the public domain.

Cartilaginous cushions between bones; found in between vertebral bodies.

An event or stimulus that precedes a response and sets the occasion for the behavior to occur; part of the four-term contingency.
Disinhibition

Disorder(s) of consciousness

Diversity

Divided attention
A state of impaired consciousness as a result of an injury to the brain.

Engaging in behaviors, such as lack of restraint, impulsivity, unawareness, or lack of adherence to social conventions, on impulse without reflecting on potential future consequences. Behaviorally, those with disinhibition typically present with increased lability, social inappropriateness, or by physically acting out.

The ability to respond simultaneously to multiple task demands while maintaining speed and accuracy.

Differences beyond race, ethnicity, and nationality, such as sexual orientations, religions, and abilities.
Domestic violence

Dopamine

Dose-dependent effect

Dose-response study
A neurotransmitter that helps control the brain's reward and pleasure centers and regulates movement and emotional responses.

A pattern of violence or abusive, controlling behaviors that occurs between two people who are currently, or were previously, romantically involved; may occur in both heterosexual or same-sex couples (or former couples).

An experimental study investigating the change in effect on an organism following exposure to increasing or decreasing levels of a substance or a stressor.

A frequent clinical finding in a dose-response study. Typically, that a small amount of exposure (dose) has minimal effect; a large amount results in adverse effect or fatality.
Dual diagnosis

Dualism

Dura mater

Durable
Descartes’ understanding of mind and body, being made of two different substances and operating in cooperation with each other.

A diagnosis of one disease process or syndrome in addition to a set of symptoms, including behaviors, which are or resemble symptoms of a known psychiatric disorder.

In legal terms, this means it is not changed when the principal becomes disabled or incompetent (e.g., a durable power of attorney for healthcare).

Outer layer of the meninges (hard matter).
Duty to warn

Dyad(ic)

Dysarthria

Dysarthric speech
Psychotherapists and other health care providers have a legal obligation to warn third parties of a risk of violence, a contagious disease or other risk, based on confidential statements of a patient. In such cases, patient-provider confidentiality is waived.

Difficulty producing speech due to weakness, paralysis, or lack of coordination of the motor-speech system, secondary to neurological injury.

Muscle weakness affecting speech production.
Dysautonomia

Dyscontrol

Dyslipidemia

Dysmenorrhea
The inability to control one’s behavior.

Refers to failure of the sympathetic or parasympathetic components of the autonomic (involuntary) nervous system (ANS). The sympathetic nervous system is responsible for the control of body arousal, which includes increasing heart-rate, respiration, perspiration, release of adrenaline and other activating hormones, which all characterize the body’s stress response. The parasympathetic nervous system is responsible for de-arousal or relaxed states: lowering heart-rate, reduced adrenaline, etc.

Painful menstrual periods that interfere with daily activities.

A disorder characterized by an abnormal amount of cholesterol or fat in the blood. The most common of the dyslipidemias is hyperlipidemia (too much fat in the blood).
Dyspareunia

Dysphagia

Dystonia

Early post-traumatic seizures (EPTS)
Problems with swallowing.

Seizures that occur within the first week following the brain injury; may result from primary direct effects of the trauma.

A general term for pain during intercourse; may be caused by vaginal infection or dryness (often linked to menopause); may or may not be related to vaginismus.

The involuntary contraction of muscles causing uncontrollable movements of the particular muscle.
Echoic

Education about cognitive weaknesses and strengths

Edema

EEG
Fluid build-up in legs or arms; a synonym for swelling.

Relating to the sense of hearing.

Electroencephalography; a recording of electrical activity in the brain via scalp electrodes or other leads.

Cognitive rehabilitation component that focuses on developing a patient’s awareness of cognitive and functional deficits.
Efferent

Efficacy

Eighth cranial (acoustic) nerve

Elopement
The ability to produce a desired result.

Tracts of nerves that receive information.

Leaving a safe place or safe premises (the term is used in relation to a person with a cognitive or mental disorder).

Transmits sound and equilibrium from the inner ear to the brain (also known as the vestibulocochlear nerve).
Emergent awareness  Emotional intelligence

Encoding  EOD
The ability to monitor and identify emotions, both one’s own and others’; and to use emotional information to guide thinking and behavior.

The ability to recognize a problem (or deficit) as it occurs.

Explosive Ordinance Device.

Storage of information into memory, much like writing data to a computer disk.
Epidural hematoma

Episodic memory

Epley maneuver

Epworth Sleepiness Scale
Autobiographical recollections of experiences.

Accumulation of blood on the surface of the meninges.

An assessment tool that measures daytime sleepiness.

A specific technique utilized by physical therapists, employing specific head, body, and eye exercises designed to retrain the brain to recognize and process signals from the vestibular system and to coordinate the signals with visual and proprioceptive information. The Epley maneuver has a high rate of success in normalizing function for individuals with benign paroxysmal positional vertigo.
Erectile dysfunction (ED)

Establishing operation (E.O.)

Estrogen

Ethnicity
Any variable that temporarily alters the effectiveness of some stimulus or event as a reinforcer; part of the four-term contingency.

Inability of a man to obtain or sustain an erection sufficient for sexual activity; may be linked to diabetes, high blood pressure, thyroid conditions, nervous system disorders, spinal cord damage, or low testosterone levels; a side effect of certain medications.

A combination of race and culture; a reference to the national origins of an individual that give rise to cultural expression of norms, values, language, and customs passed down from generation to generation.

A female hormone.
European Federation of Neurological Societies

Exacerbate

Examiner bias

Excitatory post-synaptic potentials (EPSPs)
Temporary depolarization of the post-synaptic membrane caused by an influx of positively charged ions; the opposite of inhibitory post-synaptic potentials (IPSPs). A post-synaptic potential is excitatory if it makes the neuron more likely to fire.

To make worse.

A professional organization that unites and supports neurologists throughout Europe.

A subjective bias that can lead to a result expected by the experimenter (or interviewer).
Excitotoxicity

Excoriation

Executive function

Exertional testing
To abrade, damage or remove the skin.

The process by which nerve cells are damaged and die due to overexcitation; occurs when a neuron is no longer able to maintain its resting potential as a result of impairment of the sodium-potassium pump in combination with large-scale increases in extracellular excitatory neurotransmitters such as glutamate.

Brief period of exercise followed by assessment of symptoms and cognition; used in the return-to-duty evaluation in acute concussion assessment.

Cognitive functions including planning, reasoning, judgment, initiation, and abstract thinking.
Exogenous

Experimental neuropsychology

Explicit memory

Exploitation
The study of healthy brain functioning throughout the lifespan. Individuals in experiments perform a variety of cognitive tasks and their performance is measured, often with visual imaging technology.

Relating to external factors; from outside the system or organism.

The illegal use of a dependent individual’s property or the expenditure of funds without the consent of the individual. Usually, the act is considered exploitation if done for profit or other advantage.

Information that can be consciously declared.
Expressive language

Extended Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS-E)

Extenders

Extensor muscle
The GOS-E increases the number of categories from five in the GOS to eight (Dead, Vegetative State, Lower Severe Disability, Upper Severe Disability, Lower Moderate Disability, Upper Moderate Disability, Lower Good Recovery, and Upper Good Recovery).

Available at
http://www.tbi-impact.org/cde/mod_templates/12_F_01_GOSE.pdf

The ability to put thoughts into words and sentences in a way that makes sense and is grammatically accurate.

Bends away from the body.

Unlicensed or non-certified rehabilitation staff that are trained in specific therapy skills and supervised by professional staff members when providing care in a therapeutic setting (i.e., a physical therapy assistant).
Extinction burst

Extinction

Facets

Fading
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The process of eliminating or reducing a conditioned response by not reinforcing it.</th>
<th>Initial increase in rate, intensity and/or change in topography.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The gradual elimination of overt reinforcement for desired behavior.</td>
<td>Joints; vertebral junctions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Viewing a family as a system of interrelated parts where the actions of one component (family member) of the system influence and impact the development of every other component as well as the functioning of the overall system (family).

A very common symptom of concussion, a result of metabolic imbalances following brain injury; typically arises secondary to mental rather than physical overexertion, especially when significant concentration or high-level thinking is required. It is caused by a shutdown of brain function when the brain literally runs out of energy.

A questionnaire listing needs commonly shared by family members in six domains

Afferent nerve tracts that lie in the dorsal-medial aspect of the spinal cord and transmit joint and muscle sensation to the brain.
Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS)  
Federal poverty level (FPL)  
Filum terminale  
FIM™
An income threshold (designated by the federal government) that is adjusted for inflation using the consumer price index for goods and services; often a measure used to determine eligibility for social service programs. For example, the FPL for 2014 for a family of 4 was $23,850.

A 9-item general fatigue scale used to assess the behavioral consequences of fatigue and the impact of fatigue on daily functioning on a 7-point scale.

Once called the Functional Independence Measure, the most widely accepted functional assessment measure in use in the acute rehabilitation community. The FIM™ is an 18-item ordinal scale, used with all diagnoses within an acute rehabilitation population; it has 12 physical items and 6 cognitive items. The FIM™ assesses progress during inpatient rehabilitation and serves as an indicator of the amount of assistance the individual will require after discharge.

Slender, elongated thread of connective tissue from the conus medullaris to the back of the coccyx.

http://tbims.org/combi/FIM/index.html
Fine motor control

Fissure

Fixation

Fixed battery
An approach to neuropsychological assessment that involves an inflexible battery of co-normed neuropsychological tests that thoroughly cover every functional domain.

Eyes holding gaze steady on a target.
Flashbacks

Flexible battery

Flexor muscle

Floor effect
A patient-tailored hypothesis-testing approach to neuropsychological assessment that involves consideration of the referral question and impressions from the initial interview for careful selection of subsequent assessment tools.

A hallmark symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder, in which recurrent recollections of a traumatic event are experienced in detail (e.g., seeing, hearing, feeling, etc. what was seen, heard, felt, etc.) that had occurred during the actual event.

A term used when the assessment is too challenging and many individuals receive the lowest score. For example, rating the capability of someone who is comatose on the ability to climb stairs would probably lead to a floor effect.

Bends toward the body.
Focal injury  Focal seizures

Focused attention  Foley catheter
Seizures in a specific, localized area in the brain; an infrequent consequence of repetitive brain injury. The most common is temporal lobe seizures, caused by scarring in the temporal lobe developing an area of hyperexcitable brain cells. Memory disturbances related to focal seizures are very common.

Occurring in a particular spot in the brain.

A flexible tube passed through the urethra to the bladder to drain urine; the most common form of indwelling catheter.

Focusing on one source of information while withholding responses to irrelevant stimuli.
Foot drop deformities

Foramen magnum

Foramen of Magendie

Four-term contingency
The large opening at the base of the skull through which the spinal cord passes and is connected to the brain.

An abnormal gait pattern in which the affected person has an impaired ability to raise the toes of the foot (dorsiflexion). In compensating for foot drop, the person often will raise the thigh high, as in a marching gait, to prevent the toes from dragging on the ground.

A fundamental construct in the field of behavior analysis that is used to classify and understand relations between an individual, their behavior and the environment (E.O. -> SD -> R -> C).

Median aperture through which cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) flows and circulates in the ventricles of the brain.
Frasier Free Water Protocol

Frontal poles

Frontal release

Frontal, parietal, and temporal and occipital lobes
The anterior end of the cerebral hemispheres.

A protocol developed at Frazier Rehabilitation Hospital in Kentucky for dysphagic patients to be able to consume water with reduced risk for aspiration. The protocol addresses chronic dehydration in patients on thick-liquid diets.

Four main areas of the cerebrum.

A syndrome resulting from damage to the frontal areas of the brain; characterized by disinhibition and abnormal behaviors.
Functional activities training

Functional analysis or functional assessment

Functional Assessment Measure (FAM)

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plan
The application of operant conditioning in behavioral psychology, using a four-term contingency to identify motivating operations, behavioral antecedents, the behavior itself, and the consequence of the behavior.

Cognitive rehabilitation component that focuses on real-world improvements in daily functioning.

A problem-solving approach to student behavioral issues. It generally focuses on affective, cognitive, and environmental factors that may be influencing the problematic behavior. FBAs should be integrated into the student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The FAM was developed as an adjunct to the FIM™ and includes cognitive, behavioral, communication and community functioning measures. The FAM consists of 12 items, which are intended to be added to the 18 items of the FIM.™ The total 30-item scale combination is referred to as the FIM+FAM. Both the FIM™ and FAM have training materials and require certification before use.

See http://www.tbims.org/combi/FAM/index.html
Functional systems model

Functionally equivalent alternative

GABA
Relating to function, specifically activities and occupations of daily life.

This view holds that behaviors consist of a number of simple mental operations; each mental operation is localized in a specific area of the brain; a behavior is produced by the collaboration of the local brain sites; the success of a behavior depends not only on intact functioning of specific brain areas, but also on the integrity of the connections between those areas; and disruption to any component of the functional system can lead to a breakdown of the entire behavioral function.

Gamma Amino Butyric Acid; the primary inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system.

A behavior that serves the same function as the target behavior but is safer or more appropriate, and thus is more useful for the individual.
Gag reflex

Gait

Galveston Orientation and Amnesia Test (GOAT)

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
A person’s manner of walking.

An involuntary contraction of the back of the throat, evoked by touching the back of the tongue or the tonsils; it is meant to prevent choking.

When stomach contents flow back up into the esophagus.

One of several instruments used to measure post-traumatic amnesia.

Available at http://scale-library.com/pdf/Galveston_Orientation_Amnesia_Test.pdf
Gastrostomy

Gender

Gender role

Generalizability
The state of being male or female.

An incision in the abdominal wall for the purposes of a feeding tube that passes through directly into the stomach.

Applying a learned skill to a similar task.

A set of social and behavioral norms and expectations of an individual based upon his or her gender; definitions of socially-acceptable gender roles vary from one culture to the next.
Generalization

Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale (GAD-7)

Generalized anxiety disorder

Genitourinary
A self-report questionnaire used for screening patients for Generalized Anxiety Disorder. GAD-7 is available at http://www.phqscreeners.com/pdfs/03_GAD-7/English.pdf

The ability to apply a set of principles, rules, behaviors or skills sets learned in one environment to a new environment; the act or process whereby a learned response is made to a stimulus similar to but not identical with the conditioned stimulus.

The urinary system and reproductive organs.

A psychiatric disorder characterized by a pattern of constant worry and anxiety over life situations and events.
Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)  
Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS)  
Glial cells  
Gliosis
A brief 1-item descriptive outcome measure with five possible categories

A neurologic assessment scale to objectively measure level of consciousness following head injury.

Changes in glial cells due to damage.

Non-communicating cells that support and nourish the neurons.
Global Fatigue Index (GFI)

Gray matter

Glutamate

Growth hormone deficiency (GHD)
A neurotransmitter that serves as a major mediator of excitatory signals in the brain involved in cognition, memory, and learning. Extremely high levels of glutamate are toxic to the brain, as glutamate affects the balance of sodium and potassium.

Derived from 15 of 16 items of the Multidimensional Assessment of Fatigue (MAF).

An injury-related neuroendocrine abnormality thought to be associated with fatigue. GHD is a common occurrence following TBI.

Found in the brain and spinal cord; primarily composed of neurons (also known as gray matter).
G-tube

Guardian of the estate

Guardian of the person

Guardianship
Cares for the property of the ward.

A gastrostomy tube that delivers nutrition directly into the stomach.

A legally enforceable arrangement under which one person (the guardian) has the legal right and duty to care for another (the ward).

Cares for the personal needs of the ward.
Gustatory

Habituation

Habilitative services

Gyri

Habituation
The plural form of gyrus; one of many convolutions resulting from the tissues of the cerebrum folding in over itself. Each gyrus is named for its location.

Relating to the sense of taste.

Diminished physiological or psychological response to repeated stimuli.

Medically necessary services or devices that aid an individual in functioning with a chronic health condition (e.g., hearing aids) or the acquisition or improvement of skills (e.g., speech therapy).
Haptic

Hazardous use

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

Heimlich maneuver
The use of substances in a manner that is associated with higher risk of physical, mental, or social consequences and therefore represents a public health concern.

Relating to the sense of touch.

An emergency technique to prevent suffocation when a person’s airway is blocked by a piece of food or other object; frequently taught in First Aid and CPR classes.

A federal law enacted in 1996 to mandate patient confidentiality and defined protected health information, portability of health insurance coverage for workers who lose or change their jobs, and established standards for electronic health care records.
Hematoma

Hematuria

Hemiparesis

Hemiplegia
Blood in the urine.

A discrete collection of blood, usually clotted, caused by a broken vessel (bruising).

Complete paralysis of one side of the body.

Weakness on one side of the body; less severe than hemiplegia (total paralysis of one side of the body).
Heterosexism

Heterotopic ossification (HO)

Hierarchy

High-risk drinking
The development of new bone formation in soft tissue planes surrounding neurologically affected joints.

An ideological system that denies, denigrates, and stigmatizes any non-heterosexual form of behavior or lifestyle.

The amount of alcohol use considered to be unhealthy.

System in which items or people are ranked according to their importance.
HIPAA

Hippocampal atrophy

Hippocampus

Histamine
Brain damage associated with trauma, oxygen deprivation, encephalitis, long-term stress, and neurological disorders.

See Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

A biologically active substance that plays a major role in immune response, such as allergic reactions.

Part of the limbic system; most commonly associated with memory functioning.
Home-grown measures

Homophobia

Horizontal communication

Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS)
An explicitly negative or hostile attitude toward non-heterosexual people.

Measures used by clinicians which were developed for other diagnostic groups, or measures they developed on their own. These instruments may have met a very specific clinical need, but often have many flaws which limit their usefulness.

A 14-item scale with 7 questions on anxiety and 7 questions on depression. The HADS was designed to avoid reliance on somatic symptoms; thus, this tool is useful for those with health care problems.

Available at [http://www.netzwerk-palliativmedizin-essen.de/media/formulare/HADS_Hospital_Anxiety_and_Depression_Score.pdf](http://www.netzwerk-palliativmedizin-essen.de/media/formulare/HADS_Hospital_Anxiety_and_Depression_Score.pdf)

Communication between two partners while in bed.
Hydrocephalus

ex-vacuo

Hydrocephalus

Hydrops

Hypercretin
Abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the ventricles of the brain (also called water on the brain).

Damage to the brain caused by stroke or TBI, resulting in shrinkage of brain substance. Although more cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is present in hydrocephalus ex-vacuo, the CSF pressure is normal.

Otherwise known as orexin, this is a neurotransmitter that regulates arousal, wakefulness, and appetite.

Excessive accumulation of fluid in tissues or body cavities.
Hyperphagia

Hyperreflexia

Hypersexuality

Hypertension
The involuntary increase in muscle tone and exaggerated deep tendon reflexes; overactive or over-responsive reflexes. Excessive hunger and increased appetite.

High blood pressure. Increased sexual arousal and drive.
Hyperthermia

Hyperthermic

Hypertonicity

Hypervigilance
Elevated body temperature. When due to failure in the body’s thermoregulatory system, it is a medical emergency; it can also be caused by excessive exposure to heat.

Condition in which the body overheats.

An enhanced state of arousal and sensitivity to potential dangers in the environment, often accompanied by anxiety; a frequent symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Excessive tension in muscles, also called spasticity.
Hypnagogic hallucinations

Hypopituitarism

Hypothalamic-pituitary axis

Hypothalamus
A disorder in which the pituitary fails to produce enough hormones (or ceases producing them at all).

Vivid dream-like auditory, visual, or tactile sensations one experiences in the transition between sleep and wakefulness.

The brain structure that controls hunger, thirst, sexual response, endocrine levels, and temperature regulation.

A feedback system that coordinates hormone production and release; the hypothalamus produces releasing hormones, which act on the pituitary, thus bringing about responses from specific organs targeted by these releasing hormones.
Hypoxia

Iatrogenic

Iconic

IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan)
Inadvertently induced disease or problem caused by a physician, therapy, or the medical setting itself. For example, some diseases are iatrogenic in nature (e.g., MRSA contracted while at the hospital, when the patient came in with a burn wound).

Decrease in the amount of oxygen getting to the brain; may result in cell death.

A plan for special services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or acquired brain injury. Once the child reaches age 3, these children are transitioned into the individual education plan (IEP) process.

Relating to the visual sense.
Ilia

Immediate post-traumatic convulsions (IPTC)

Immuno-supression

Impaction
Seizures that involve loss of consciousness and involuntary movements within seconds of impact; usually associated with facial trauma or head injury with significant force.

Hip bones (plural of ilium).

Blockage of the digestive tract by a lump of hard, dry stool stuck in the rectum; may be caused by opioid analgesics, psychiatric illness, prolonged inactivity, dietary changes, or overuse of laxatives.

The reduction in efficacy of the immune system; can be caused by certain diseases (e.g., HIV, lymphoma) or specific drugs.
Implicit memory

In vivo

Incidence

Incompetent
Occurring within a living organism (a biological term).  

Procedural memory or cognitive skill memory.

A legal term used when one has been found by a court to lack the capacity to handle one's affairs. In such cases, a plenary guardian is assigned to the incompetent individual.

The rate or range of occurrence of a specific disease or injury within a specified period of time; for example, a certain number of brain injuries that occur within a given year.
Incontinence

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Individual Educational Evaluation (IEE)

Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP)
A legal, written plan or program, developed by the school's special education team with input from the parents, specifying the student's academic goals based upon assessment and the method to obtain these goals via specially designed instruction and related services.

Loss of voluntary control of bladder (urinary incontinence) or bowel (fecal incontinence).

A document that can be a part of a 504 Plan or IEP to help to ensure that a child's medical requirements are properly met during a school day.

An independent evaluation conducted at the expense of the school district by a qualified assessor (one can be requested with expertise in evaluating students with brain injury).
Individual Transition Plan (ITP)

Individualized

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Induration
Adapted to the needs or special circumstances of an individual.

A coordinated set of activities for special education students that promotes successful movement from school to post-school activities as mandated under the IDEA by age 16 (14 in some states) and is a part of the IEP document.

A hardening of the soft tissues of the body, usually caused by an increase in fibrous elements frequently associated with inflammation.

A federal mandate for public schools to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE), at no cost to the parents, for students ages birth to 21 with disabilities through special education supports and related services.
In-dwelling devices

Infection

Inferior

Inflammation
The invasion of body tissues by disease-causing microorganisms. Signs of inflection include redness, warmth to touch, drainage from the site, and fever. Medical devices inserted into the body for long-term temporary or permanent use (such as catheters or feeding tubes).

A biological response of vascular tissue to damage or harmful stimuli. Below; underneath.
Inflicted Traumatic Brain Injury (iTBI)

Informed consent

Injury Severity Score (ISS)

Innervate
A patient’s right to consent (or to refuse consent) to care only after the health care provider fully discloses risks and facts necessary to make an informed decision about health care.

A traumatic brain injury resulting from a non-accidental injury.

To supply an organ (or other body part) with nerves.

A measure in which the three most severe injuries in different areas of the body are considered in deriving a total score (from 0 to 75), with higher scores representing more injury severity.

http://www.mdcalc.com/injury-severity-score-iss/
Insertion point

Insomnia

Instrument

Integration
One of the most common sleep disorders; characterized by difficulty falling asleep, frequent awakenings with difficulty falling back to sleep, and a feeling of daytime fatigue or difficulty getting through the day.

Where muscle connects to bone.

The stage or status in which a child, adolescent, or adult sees the benefits of embracing both races and ethnicities.

A measuring device for determining the present value of a quantity under observation.
Integumentary system

Intensity

Interlimb coordination

Internal rotation
A term used in behavioral psychology to describe a description or measure of force.

Skin.

A movement turning a body part in toward the center of the body; for example, pulling the arm in to the body.

The movement of one limb combined with the movement of another limb (e.g., crawling).
International Academy of Life Care Planners (IALCP)

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)

International Classification of Headache Disorders (ICHD)

International Commission on Health Care Certification (ICHCC)
A classification tool to measure both health and disability of individuals and populations; published by the World Health Organization.

A professional organization of individuals practicing in rehabilitation, including long-term disability planning, case management and managed care, consulting regarding disability management, vocational rehabilitation, life care planning, forensics, and ADA consulting.

A credentialing body that awards certifications to qualified professionals in life care planning, disability evaluation rating, Medicare Set Aside allocations.

A detailed classification system of headaches listed by causation. The first edition of this document was released by the International Headache Society (IHS) in 1988.
The patterns of behavior between two or more individuals that affect emotion and behavior.

A membership organization for professionals working with people who suffer from chronic headaches.

Violence or abuse that occurs between two or more people who know each other.

The ability to relate to, understand, and effectively interact with others.
Intracortical microstimulation (ICMS)

Intracranial pressure (ICP)

Intracranial pressure monitoring

Intrapersonal intelligence
Pressure inside the skull from the brain and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Pressure may vary due to production and absorption of CSF following injury.

Impulses, delivered by an electrode, repeatedly applied to the cerebral cortex to stimulate reorganization in the brain. These are usually very low-current but high-frequency impulses.

The ability for self-reflection, introspection, ethical awareness, and self-regulation.

An invasive procedure in which an intraventricular catheter device is placed inside the head to monitor the pressure inside the skull resulting from swelling caused by traumatic brain injury.
Intrathecal baclofen (ITB)

Intrusion

Intubate

Ipsilateral
Unwelcome, involuntary thoughts, images, or ideas that are upsetting or cause distress because of the inability to control them (e.g., flashbacks are often intrusive).

An injection of baclofen into the subarachnoid space in the spinal canal.

On the same side of the body.

To insert a tube into an orifice of the body to remove or add fluids (e.g., a nasogastric tube for feeding or administration of drugs).
Ischemia  
Jejunostomy

Ischium  
JFK Coma Recovery Scale – Revised (JFK CRS-R)
The curved bone at the base of the pelvis (the bones upon which one sits).

Lack of oxygen due to a restriction of blood flow.

A measure often used with individuals who are in a vegetative state or minimally conscious state. The JFK CRS-R involves measurements of 23 items in subscales addressing auditory, visual, motor, oromotor, communication, and arousal functions. This measure is also very useful for measuring emerging consciousness.

Available at http://www.tbims.org/combi/crs/CRS%20Syllabus.pdf

An incision in the abdominal wall for the purposes of a feeding tube that passes through directly into the jejunum (part of the small intestine).
Job coach

Joining

Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)

Korsakoff’s dementia
A term often used by family therapists to describe the process of forming a working alliance with families so that the family and professional can work together as a team.

A person who helps one attain career and employment goals; also known as an employment specialist.

A neurological disorder caused by a deficiency of thiamine (vitamin B1) in the brain; linked to alcoholism.

The accrediting body for hospitals in the United States. Now known as the Joint Commission.
Emotional instability; rapidly changing emotions.   
Easily or continually changing.

A medical center in Germany that accepts all evacuations from the battlefield.   
Part of the vertebra, extending dorsally and medially from the pedicles, forming the vertebral arch.
Late post-traumatic seizures (LPTS)

Latency period

Latency

Lateral corticospinal tract
An interval of time between the beginning stages of disease (i.e., infection) and subsequent illness (i.e., full-blown disease, usually the point of diagnosis).

Seizures that occur later than one week after the initial head trauma, usually within the first 18 to 24 months of the brain injury, but may occur many years afterward.

Efferent nerve bundle located in the lateral, slightly dorsal, aspect of the spinal cord; sends impulses to control muscles and other organs as well.

The time between the stimulus and the response.
Lateral

Lesion studies

Lateropulsion

Level of Cognitive Functioning Scale (LCFS)
Tendency to fall to one side.

Also known as the Rancho Los Amigos Coma Scale; an outcome measure used for brain injury post-coma. The LCFS scores the person on alertness and ability to respond to presented stimuli. Scoring ranges from 1 (no response) to 8 (purposeful and appropriate).

Available at http://www.tbims.org/combi/lcfs/lcfs.pdf

A scientific field of study of human patients or animals with deficits following brain damage.
LGBT

Life Care Plan (LCP)

Ligaments

Ligamentum flavum
A lifelong needs assessment of the needed goods and services required for a person with brain injury to live the most independent life possible.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals (or community).

Ligament connecting the spinal column; runs up and down the back of the spinal canal, posterior to the spinal cord, in the interior of the vertebral canal. It is aptly named for its color (flavum means yellow).

Fibrous connective tissue lashing muscles to bones.
Likert Scale

Limbic system

Lissauer’s tract

Living Will (Advance Directive) and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (Medical Power of Attorney or Health Care Proxy)
Part of the brain involved in emotions and basic feelings.

A scale commonly involved in research that employs questionnaires, and is scored on how much the respondent agrees with each statement; typically rated using choices such as agree, somewhat agree, disagree, etc., or by using a numeric scale (e.g., 1 to 4 or 1 to 5).

Written instructions by a competent adult to a physician on providing, withholding, or withdrawing life-sustaining procedures when the individual is in a terminal or permanently unconscious condition.

Afferent ventral-lateral nerve tracts that carry sensations of pain and temperature.
Localization of brain function

Locomotor training

Localize

Longitudinal health assessments
To turn the head in the direction of some form of stimulus.

The brain consists of different organs and specialized areas that control different functions.

Multiple assessments of a health condition across time.

A specific type of rehabilitative training for people with spinal cord injury, persons with TBI, stroke, and other neurological disorders to help improve ability to walk.
Long-term memory

Long-term potentiation (LTP)

Loss of consciousness (LOC)

Lost productivity
In neuroscientific research, LTP refers to a long-lasting signal that occurs between two neurons when they are stimulated simultaneously.

One measure of the cost to society due to injury or disease. Lost productivity costs include the loss of wages a person would have earned if they had not become unemployable due to disability, loss of taxes contributing to the economy, costs to the government if supporting the individual following their illness or injury, etc. Lost productivity costs do not include the cost of treatment and support post-injury or illness.

Permanent consolidation and storage of information, often lasting a lifetime.

Temporary altered state, unlike sleep, when a person is unresponsive to stimuli; usually due to trauma, stroke, or other injury.
Lumbar

Lumbralization

M2P2

MACE
(Military Acute Concussion Evaluation)
The term used if the sacrum incorporates an extra disc, creating a sixth lumbar vertebra. Pertaining to the low back region.

Screening tool used immediately following injury to assess potential deficits. It records the history of the traumatic event, occurrence of symptoms, and cognitive evaluation that is based on the Standardized Assessment of Concussion used in sports injury evaluation.

One of three subscales of the Mayo-Portland Adaptability Inventory-4. The M2P2 is designed to track post-acute rehabilitation outcomes of both children and adults with TBI and includes 8 items.
Maceration

Magnesium (Mg2+)

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

Major Depressive Episode
A mineral being investigated as a potential neuroprotective agent for the treatment of TBI. Magnesium is involved in many critical cellular processes including cellular respiration, protein synthesis, membrane stability, and regulation of vascular tone; it also plays an important role in the pathophysiological processes following TBI.

The softening of the skin due to prolonged exposure to fluid.

A psychiatric condition characterized by at least 2 weeks in which the individual experiences loss of interest or depressed mood accompanied by at least four additional symptoms, such as changes in appetite, weight loss, decreased energy, feelings of worthlessness, and suicidal ideations, among others.

A technique that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images of the organs and tissues within the body.
Manic episode (mania)

Marital satisfaction

Marital stability

Masticatory
The subjective evaluation of each partner’s experiences of having needs met or unmet in a relationship; the degree of expectations and desires that are met by being in the relationship with another person.

A psychiatric condition identified by a period of at least 1 week where the individual has a noticeably elevated, expansive, or irritable mood with at least 3 additional symptoms, such as extremely amplified self-esteem, decreased desire for sleep, grandiose ideas, distractibility, and involvement in high-risk activities.

Referring to mastication (chewing).

The status of a partnership determined by the comparison between one's current marital outcome and other available alternatives and expressed as intact, separated, or divorced.
Mayo-Portland Adaptability Inventory (MPAI)

McMaster Family Assessment Device (MFAD)

Measurement

MEB discharge
A 60-item outcome measure that determines family functioning following a TBI. The MFAD ascertains six aspects of familial dynamics: problem solving, communication, roles, affective responsiveness, affective involvement, and behavioral control. Higher scores on the MFAD are associated with poorer family functioning.


A clinical evaluation tool designed for use in post-acute care for brain injury rehabilitation.

For more information, visit www.tbims.org/combi/mpai

Medical discharge resulting from injury or illness, granted by the Medical Evaluation Board.

A test or assessment.
A federal insurance program for very low income individuals. Medicaid is the primary payer of long-term care for persons who are elderly or have disabilities.

Medical evacuations to a higher level of care; may occur from smaller sites in theater to regional combat medical centers with more capabilities or out of theater to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC).

An allocated amount from a third-party lawsuit settlement, in which future medical expenses that would otherwise be paid for by Medicare are typically deposited into an interest-bearing account. A structured MSA may also feature annuity payments.

A federal insurance program enacted in 1965 for those over the age of 65 (also covers some persons with disabilities). Medicare Part A covers hospitalization, skilled nursing facilities, home health care and hospice services. Part B covers physician services, outpatient hospital care, including limited amounts of therapy, preventative and laboratory services, and certain equipment and supplies. Part C is an optional, cost-saving managed care plan, and Part D is a voluntary prescription drug program.
Medicare Supplement Insurance

Medulla

Meniere’s Disease

Meninges
Controls many involuntary functions such as breathing, heart rate, blood pressure, swallowing, vomiting, and sneezing.

Private insurance plans, often called “Medigap” policies, sold by commercial insurance companies to individuals to provide additional protection beyond what is covered under Medicare.

Membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord.

A disease of unknown origin, characterized by intermittent attacks or tinnitus or vertigo.
Meningitis

Metabolic alterations

Metabolic distress

Metabolic syndrome
Adverse chemical changes in the brain following head injury.

An infection resulting from a virus or bacteria entering the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal column.

Also known as Syndrome X, a condition in which increased abdominal girth is found in conjunction with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and high blood sugar levels; thought to be linked to increased risk for diabetes mellitus.

A condition following injury in which the body becomes overwhelmed and cannot respond properly.
Metabolism

Metacognition

Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Midbrain
Self-awareness and knowledge of one's strengths and weaknesses.

The chemical processes by which living things use resources such as food and water to grow, heal injuries and make energy.

Plays a pivotal role in alertness and arousal.

A bacterium that is resistant to certain types of antibiotics; often found in medical facilities; and life-threatening in certain conditions.
Mild brain injury (mBI)

Mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI)

Milieu

Military occupational specialty (MOS)
Injury to the head with either brief (less than 30 minutes) or no loss of consciousness; symptoms may include vomiting, lethargy, dizziness, and inability to recall recent events.

Injury to the brain, with Glasgow Coma Scores (GCS) between 13-15.

A service member’s job within the military.

One’s environment, sphere, or context. Milieu therapy focuses on providing a therapeutic supportive setting in which one’s emotional and interpersonal needs are met in addition to physical or medical needs.
Military theater

Minimal clinically important differences (MCID)

Minimally conscious state

Moderate TBI
A term used in medical statistics, in which a statistical model defines the smallest changes that a patient would find important in the outcome of a treatment.

Battlefield.

Injury to the head resulting in unconsciousness for any period of time up to 24 hours; neurological signs of brain trauma, such as skull fractures with contusion or bleeding; may have focal findings on an electroencephalograph (EEG)/ computed tomography (CT) scan.

A condition of altered consciousness where the person displays some acknowledgment of self or environment.
Modified barium swallow study/test

Monism

Morbidity

Morris water maze (MWM)
A competing model to Descartes’ dualism theory. Monism holds that mind and body are made of the same substance (the currently-accepted view in scientific circles).

A test performed by a speech-language pathologist in conjunction with a radiologist or physiatrist to evaluate swallowing function; determines how the individual manages various substances during the oral, pharyngeal, and esophageal stages of swallowing and assesses the risk of aspiration with swallowing.

An experimental testing apparatus used in behavioral neuroscience investigating memory and learning.

A condition or state of disease.
Mortality

Motivational interviewing

Motor learning

Multicultural psychology
A method used in counseling to engage intrinsic motivation from within the client toward behavior change.

The systematic study of behavior, cognition, and affect in many different cultures.

Likelihood of death.

Learning new motor skills.
Multiculturalism

Multidimensional Assessment of Fatigue (MAF)

Multiple sleep latency test (MLST)

Myoclonic jerks
A self-report measure of four domains of fatigue including severity, distress, impact on activity, and timing of fatigue, with scores ranging from 1 to 50.

A social-intellectual movement promoting cultural diversity as a core principle while insisting on equality and respect of all cultural groups.

Brief, involuntary twitching of muscles (repetitive spasms).

The standard tool to test for narcolepsy and idiopathic insomnia; also known as the daytime nap test.
Myotendinous lengthening

Narcolepsy

National Disability Rights Network

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
Excessive sleepiness caused by an inhibition of the brain’s ability to regulate sleep/wake cycles; typically is associated with cataplexy and hypnagogic hallucinations.

A surgical procedure in which the tendinous fibers are severed at the musculotendinous junction, allowing the tendinous fibers to glide over the muscle, thus lengthening the muscle tendon.

A part of the NIH that funds and conducts research on basic and clinical neuroscience, focusing on both normal and abnormal functioning of the human nervous system, to better understand disease mechanisms and potential treatments.

A nonprofit organization for protection and advocacy systems, providing technical assistance, advocacy, and legal support.
Formerly NIDRR and part of the U.S. Department of Education, now part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; NIDILRR funds research on rehabilitation, including the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS).

See National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).

The process describing how organisms that are better adapted for their environment tend to survive and reproduce. Natural selection was first proposed by Charles Darwin and is central to the theory of evolution.

The foremost medical research agency in the nation, with 27 separate institutes, which often focus on a specific disease. The NIH is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Near transfer

Necrosis

Neglect

Nerve tracts
Cell death and loss of cells.

Transfer of skills gained in one activity being utilized in a related activity.

A neural pathway connecting one part of the nervous system with another.

Failure to provide for the basic needs of a dependent individual.
Neurobehavioral Symptom Inventory (NSI)

Neurogenesis

Neurobehavioral

Neurogenic bladder
Of or relating to the relationship between the action of the nervous system and behavior.

A clinical tool that assesses symptoms based on self-report of the person with suspected TBI.

A secondary condition caused when a TBI affects the cerebral structures controlling bladder storage and emptying functions.

The formation of new neurons.
Nerve cells that communicate to other neurons.

Abnormalities that develop when the nerve becomes entrapped in scar tissue.

Damage or disease affecting peripheral nerves, impairing sensation and movement; often causing pain or weakness.

Pain associated with primary lesion of dysfunction of the nervous system.
Devices that provide a substitute for motor, sensory, or cognitive function damaged by disease or injury (e.g. a cochlear implant).

The ability of the brain to change its structure or function due to the environment; refers to the ability of the nervous system to regenerate and reorganize itself, and to form new connections in order to compensate for injury or adapt to changes in the environment.

A branch of medicine concerned with clinical disorders caused by brain injury or diseases of the brain; a subspecialty of psychiatry.

Preservation of neuronal functioning and structure; reducing the rate of neuronal loss over time; refers to the ability of a drug or biological agent to prevent brain cells from dying.
Neuropsychological testing

Neuropsychology

Neurorehabilitation

Neurotransmitters
Scientific study of the brain as it relates to specific behaviors (i.e. neuroscience), with regard to information processing and cognition; often linked to brain-mapping.

Tests that are administered in order to determine deficits following injuries such as TBI.

Chemical messengers used by neurons to communicate to one another.

An emerging field of practice that attempts to balance the relationship between preventing neurodegeneration and enhancing the potential for neuroplasticity.
Neutral monism

Nicotinamide

No Child Left Behind Act

Nocioception
A soluble B vitamin (Vitamin B3) that has been successfully tested in preclinical models of TBI to improve functional recovery following injury.

The theory that mind and body are two different ways of describing the same entity.

The process in which the neurological system processes noxious stimuli as initiated by the pain receptors, or nociceptors.

A federal law enacted in 2001 to provide financial incentives to states to improve their special education services and services for all students. States that do not improve must refund the incentives to the federal government, allow parents a choice of schools for their children, and abide by other rules.
Non-native apps

Non-traumatic brain injury

Nonverbal

Nonvocal
Damage to the brain caused by internal factors, such as oxygen or nutrient deprivation to brain cells, exposure to toxins, pressure from a tumor or blockage, or other neurological disorder.

Additional apps that are not standard on mobile devices. These must be downloaded and added to the devices; some are free, and others must be purchased.

Not utilizing words or unable to produce speech.

Communicating (or not communicating) without the use of words.
Normalizing

Norming

Norms

NSAIDS
Test administration to a group of healthy individuals, believed to be representative of the general healthy population. This process leads to the development of normative data.

The process of letting families know that their concerns and experiences are both valid and typical given their situation—that they are not abnormal.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (such as aspirin, ibuprofen, and naproxen).

Represent a range of typical performance on a neuropsychological test in a healthy population or reference group.
Nuclei

Nystagmus

Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

Obstructive or non-communicating hydrocephalus
Involuntary, rapid eye movements known to be a hallmark of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo; may be side-to-side (horizontal nystagmus), up-and-down (vertical nystagmus), or rotary (torsional nystagmus).

Plural of nucleus, the part of a cell that is the essential agent for growth, metabolism, and reproduction.

Obstruction of the flow of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) around the brain following trauma.

A psychiatric disorder characterized by recurrent obsessions or compulsions, expressed either through thought or behavior, which are severe enough in frequency and/or duration to cause distress or impair function.
Obstructive sleep apnea

Occipital neuralgia

Occlusion

Occupational therapy (OT)
A condition caused by either direct trauma or secondary sensitization from recurring central headaches. Occipital neuralgia is usually associated with pain in the back of the head that worsens as the day progresses.

When throat muscles close during sleep and obstruct the airway; the most common form of sleep apnea.

A rehabilitative specialty practice that focuses on improving ability to perform tasks for independent functioning, if functions are impaired or lost; and prevention, through early intervention, of initial or further impairment or loss of function.

The closing or blockage of a blood vessel; can be due to pressure from outside the body or a blockage from within the body (i.e. an artery being occluded due to cholesterol plaques).
A ruling made by the US Supreme Court requiring the provision of community-based services when such services are available and not opposed by that patient(s) in question, as opposed to being institutionalized.

Injury to the head in which there is a breach of the skull or a breach of the meninges.

Relating to the sense of smell.

A federal law, enacted in 1981, authorizing the establishment of home and community-based Medicaid waivers, allowing states to provide medical and related services tailored to the unique needs of a particular population.
Open-ended questioning

Operational definition

Operationalization

Ophthalmoplegic migraine
A clear and concise definition of an item (quantity, behavior, etc.) that can be measured.

The use of questions that require the person to give more than just a single-word or yes-or-no answer.

A variant of migraine, caused by inflammatory cranial neuropathy.

The process of defining an abstract concept that is not directly measurable. This term is often used in research to bring clarity to an otherwise-fuzzy phenomenon being investigated and often to identify an indicator of its presence or absence. For example, happiness might be measured by the number of smiles a person exhibits in one hour; hunger can be measured by the number of hours since a person has eaten.
Opioids

Optic chiasm

Orbit

Organ of Corti
The part of the brain where the optic nerves cross; located immediately below the hypothalamus.

A category of narcotic pain medications derived from the opium poppy.

Part of the cochlea, in the inner ear (also known as the spiral organ). The organ of Corti has hair cells that serve as auditory sensory cells.

The concave cavity in the skull that protects the eyeball (also known as an eye socket).
Organic personality syndrome

Orientation Log (OLOG)

Oromotor

Orthoses
One of several instruments used to measure post-traumatic amnesia.

Available at http://www.tbims.org/combi/olog/olog.pdf

A psychiatric disorder characterized by short or long-term personality disturbance attributed to a brain dysfunction, injury, or disease.

An orthopedic or mechanical device to assist or support movement in the body (i.e., braces for the legs).

Using the lips, jaw, tongue, and teeth. Signs of oromotor dysfunctions include drooling and difficulty swallowing, feeding, or speaking.
Orthostatic hypotension

Orthotist

Oscillopsia

Osmolarity
A specialty in the medical field; and orthotist designs, applies, and may manufacture orthotic devices to modify structure and function of the neuromuscular and skeletal systems.

When a person’s blood pressure drops quickly upon standing; known colloquially as head rush or dizzy spell.

The concentration of an osmotic solution. Measured in osmols.

Visual disturbance in which objects in the visual field give the appearance of oscillating (moving back-and-forth or up-and-down).
Osteoporosis

Other Health Impaired (OHI) (Educational Definition)

P(A)LISSIT

PABIR
A special education educational eligibility category under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for students who acquire a brain injury from non-traumatic causes. It is defined as having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli; that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment; that is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, and sickle cell anemia; and that adversely affects a child’s educational performance.

A disease characterized by fragile, porous bones.

Post-acute brain injury rehabilitation.

An intervention path frequently employed by healthcare professionals addressing sexual intimacy (the initials stand for Permission [Affirmation], Limited Information, Specific Suggestions, Intensive Therapy).
Palpation

Panic Disorder

Para-transit

Paraverbal behavior
An anxiety disorder with repeated attacks of intense fear that something bad will happen to the person or others of sufficient intensity or duration to cause distress or impair function.

Using one’s hands to examine the body.

Tone of voice, cadence of speech, volume, and pacing of verbal communication.

A service provided to individuals who are not able to use the regular transit system independently (because of a physical or mental impairment).
Parenteral

Paresis

Parkinsonism

Paroxysmal autonomic dysreflexia (AD), also known as autonomic hyperreflexia, neurostorming or sympathetic storming
Weakness in a particular area of the body; named by the number of parts involved, from mono, meaning one limb, to tetra, meaning all four limbs.

Not delivered through the intestinal tract (e.g., fluids delivered intravenously).

A potentially life-threatening condition that can occur following traumatic brain injury and is a medical emergency requiring immediate attention. Acute AD is a reaction of the autonomic nervous system to overstimulation and is characterized by paroxysmal hypertension (the sudden onset of severe high blood pressure) associated with throbbing headaches, profuse sweating, nasal stuffiness, flushing of the skin above the level of the lesion, alterations in heart rate, anxiety, and sometimes by cognitive impairment.

A neurological disorder characterized by tremors, rigidity, hypokinesia, and being unstable on one's feet.
Paroxysmal autonomic instability with dystonia

Participation Assessment with Recombined Tools-Objective (PART-O)

Participation restriction
Involvement in life situations and also the term currently used to describe engagement in social roles; previously called community integration.

A syndrome of intermittent agitation, diaphoresis, hypothermia, hypertension, tachycardia, tachypnea, and extensor posturing; a risk factor for increased morbidity after brain injury.

Lack of full engagement in a life situation.

An objective measure of participation for persons with moderate-to-severe brain injuries. The PART-O has 17 items addressing three domains: Out and About, Productivity, and Social Relations.

It is free to use and is available at http://www.tbims.org/combi/parto/PARTO.pdf
Pathogen

Pathophysiological

Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)
The physiology of disordered function.

Something, such as a virus or bacterium, that causes disease.

A federal law enacted in 2010 to mandate health insurance. Also known as the Affordable Care Act, the ACA was drafted in response to the skyrocketing costs of health care and the estimated 50 million Americans who were uninsured or under-insured.

A brief 9-item self-report questionnaire used as a screening tool to assess severity of depression; widely used by health care providers, its validity is well-established, particularly for identifying severe depression. The PHQ-9 is in the public domain and is available for use free of charge at http
An instrument used in educational settings that can be completed by teachers, parents, and support staff working with the student; it can be used frequently as the student progresses to indicate changes in function. See http://www.mnlowincidenceprojects.org/documents/tbi_Checklist.pdf

A standardized test for children ages 6-16. The PTBI takes 30 minutes to administer and can be repeated as the child improves. It assesses the skills children need to return to school and function in the general education curriculum; useful for speech-language pathologists, psychologists and other clinicians determine children's curriculum-relevant neurocognitive, language, and literacy abilities so they can identify strengths and weaknesses and implement effective interventions.

It is available at http://products.brookespublishing.com/Pediatric-Test-of-Brain-Injury-PTBI--P134.aspx

Term that refers collectively to the pubis,ischium, sacrum, and ilia.

Stalk-like support on each side of the neural arch of a vertebral body.
Penetrating brain injury

Perfuse

Perilymphatic fistula

Perimenopause
To cause to spread or flow.

Any injury that involves the penetration of a foreign object, munitions fragment, bone chip, etc., through the dura mater.

The period of time in which a woman’s body prepares to make its natural transition toward permanent infertility.

A tear in the membrane (the oval window of the ear), such that the perilymph from the inner ear leaks into the middle ear.
Perineal

Periodic limb movement disorder

Peripheral nervous systems (PNS)

Peripheral nocioception
Rhythmic movements, usually of the lower extremities, that may occur as frequently as every 20-40 seconds during sleep; may be related to the use of antidepressant medications.

Referring to the perineum. The perineum in females refers to the area between the anus and the vagina; in males it refers to the area between the anus and the scrotum.

Pain signals sent from the peripheral nerves to the brain; often caused by injury, inflammation, or obstructions; tends to be episodic; typically responds well to opioids.

Connect the CNS to sensory organs, and to other organs of the body, muscles, blood vessels, and glands. The peripheral nerves include the 12 cranial nerves, the spinal nerves, and the autonomic nerves.
Persistent post-concussive symptoms (PPCS)

Personal protective equipment

Personality disorders

Phantom limb
Gloves, gowns, masks and eye protection for medical personnel based on the risk of exposure to bodily fluids associated with the procedure.

A complex disorder following a concussion, lasting for weeks or months, consisting of symptoms such as headaches or dizziness.

A phenomenon, following amputation of a limb, in which the patient has the sensation that the extremity is still there.

A class of psychiatric disorders with associated personality types and enduring behaviors and symptoms that cause significant stress, impair function, or cause disability. Typical personality disorders include histrionic, borderline personality disorder, narcissistic, avoidant, antisocial, dependent, paranoid, schizoid, obsessive-compulsive personality disorder, schizotypal, and dissociative identity disorder (previously called multiple personality disorder).
Pharmacologic neuromodulation

Photophobia

Phrenology

Physiatrist
Discomfort or pain in the eyes due to exposure to light.

The use of medicine for the electrical stimulation of nerves.

A medical doctor who specializes in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (also called PM&R physicians).

A pseudoscience, popular in the early 1800s, that theorized that one could tell the characteristics of an individual from feeling or measuring the bumps and indentations of the skull.
Physical management

Physical therapy (PT)

Pia mater

Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index
A rehabilitative specialty practice that addresses posture, muscle strength, mobility, and organization of movement. PT may be provided to prevent the onset or progression of impairment, functional limitation, disability, or changes in physical function or health resulting from injury, disease, or other causes.

Range of motion, orthotic use, positioning to keep the muscles and ligaments functional.

An assessment tool that measures daytime sleepiness.

The innermost layer of the meninges.
Plantar sensation

Plasticity

Plenary guardianship

Polycystic ovarian symptoms
A change in the expression of genes or proteins; can be observed with electrophysiological measures as changes in signaling between neurons.

Sensation on the soles of the foot.

Infertility due to anovulation, cysts on the ovaries, abnormal facial growth, infrequent or absent menstrual periods.

Cares for personal needs and the property of the ward. A court may appoint plenary guardianship only upon a finding of incompetency.
Polypharmacy

Polytherapies

Polysomnography

Polytrauma System of Care (PSC)
Diagnostic testing conducted in a sleep laboratory. The simultaneous use of multiple medications.

The PSC provides a continuum of integrated care through 5 regional TBI-Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers (PRC), 5 Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation Programs (PTRP), 23 Polytrauma Network Sites (PNS), 87 Polytrauma Support Clinic Teams (PSCT), and 39 Polytrauma Points of Contact (POC), located at VA medical centers across the country.

The use of more than one treatment method in a combined therapeutic approach.
Polytraumatic injuries

Pons

Positional asphyxia

Positive reframing
Controls facial movements, facial sensation, hearing, and coordinating eye movements; also coordinates thoughts and movement.

Multi-systemic injuries that may include severe pain, amputations, PTSD psychological responses, burns, and other challenges in addition to brain injury.

A psychological technique that assists people in identifying maladaptive thoughts and instead finding the positive alternative view of various events, thoughts, or beliefs.

The term used when one’s physical position limits or eliminates their ability to breathe; often, but not always, in a face-down position; frequently associated with the use of restraints by police or staff at a prison or health care facility.
Post-acute care

Post-concussion syndrome (PCS)

Post-controlled cortical impact (post-CCI)

Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA)
A cluster of persistent symptoms a concussed person may experience, such as: problems with attention, memory, fatigue, sleep, headache, dizziness, irritability, or changes in mood and personality.

Care provided in a community setting, as in most post-hospital rehabilitation services (the person is medically stable); may or may not be on an outpatient basis.

Health screening that every service member completes upon leaving the battlefield.

An experimental animal model that studies the sequela following the use of a pneumatic impactor device to induce brain injury to a specific area of the cortex.
Postdrome

Posterior

Posterior cord syndrome

Posterior longitudinal ligament
A symptom, or set of symptoms, occurring after a condition has passed; often used in conjunction after-effects of migraine.

Ligament connecting the spinal column; runs behind the vertebral bodies.

A rare syndrome; occurs primarily with intraoperative complications in spinal surgery.
Postictal period

Post-traumatic amnesia (PTA)

Post-traumatic epilepsy (PTE)

Post-traumatic headache (PTH)
A state of confusion immediately following traumatic brain injury. Disorientation and inability to remember events leading up to the injury are characteristic of PTA. It is usually temporary.

Short period of time following a seizure where there is an altered state of consciousness; ranges from 5 to 30 minutes and may be accompanied with headache, migraine, nausea, confusion, hypertension, and drowsiness as the brain recovers from the trauma of the seizure.

A headache that commences within 14 days of loss of consciousness. It may spontaneously resolve over the next 6 months, or symptoms may persist and become chronic.

Some use this term interchangeably with late post-traumatic seizure (LPTS), due to the observation that a single LPTS is a strong predictor of recurrent seizures (i.e. epilepsy).
Post-traumatic hypersomnia

Post-traumatic immune paralysis

Post-traumatic migraine (PTM)

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
Acute period after sustaining significant bodily trauma, when the immune response is significantly impaired; frequently associated with the high prevalence of potentially life-threatening infections post-injury.

Excessive daytime sleepiness; often develops 6 to 18 months following head trauma.

A severe anxiety disorder with specific symptoms that occurs following exposure to a traumatic event involving the threat of death or injury to the person or another individual.

Chronic migraines brought on by trauma to the head or neck.
Power of Attorney

Practical intelligence

Practice effects

Preclinical
Ability to solve practical life problems in everyday settings.

A legal document in which a competent person (the principal) appoints another (the agent) to act for him in legal and financial matters.

The experimental stage of research prior to human clinical trials.

The influence on test results of having taken the same test previously and having learned as a result; a consequence of repeat testing.
Prefrontal cortex

Premature ejaculation (PE)

Premature ventricular contractions

Premenstrual mood dysphoria
Semen ejected from the penis (usually accompanied by orgasm), occurring earlier than a man wants; effectively ending sexual activity. There is no standard cut-off for diagnosis of PE, but the International Society for Sexual Medicine considers PE to be ejaculation occurring within or prior to 1 minute.

An area of the frontal lobes that carries out executive functions, and expressions of personality.

Extreme mood shifts (such as marked irritability, tension or anxiety, extreme sadness or hopelessness) due to hormonal fluctuations related to menstruation.

Abnormal cardiac activity due to extra heartbeats originating in the heart’s lower chambers.
Premorbid

Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP)

Pressure sores

Prevalence
Following IEP team assessment review and eligibility determination for special education, the IEP team members assess the student’s PLAAFP to develop baselines, upon which IEP goals are then written in the areas of need identified.

Symptom or condition occurring prior to the occurrence or development of physical or mental disease.

The number of people with a given condition at a specific point in time; for example, the number of people currently living with a brain injury in the year 2014.

Bedsores.
Primary blast injury

Primary Care PTSD Screen

Primary fatigue

Primary headache
A 4-item screening tool designed for health care settings; currently used by the VA to screen PTSD in soldiers. A score of 3 or higher is diagnostic for PTSD. Available at http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/pc-ptsd.pdf

The initial injury incurred as a result of blast waves that cause overpressure resulting in organ and tissue damage.

A headache that has no specific cause. Fatigue that results directly from injury or disease.
Primary injury

Primary motor cortex

Primary sensory cortex

Private School Service Plan (PSSP)
An area of the frontal lobes that sends signals down to the muscles of the body, controlling voluntary movement.

Initial cause of damage to the brain, from which injury severity ratings are obtained.

If a family chooses to have their child remain in the private school setting, the school district can offer a PSSP, which provides limited special education and related services to the student attending the private school.

An area in the parietal lobes that processes sensory information (also called the somatosensory cortex).
Privilege

Procedural memory

Prodrome

Progesterone
Remembering how to tie shoes or ride a bike without consciously thinking about these activities; often involved in learning motor skills.

A right of the patient to prevent disclosure of health care information by a health care provider.

A hormone that has been studied as a potential neuroprotective agent in preclinical models of TBI for several decades.

An early symptom, or set of symptoms, indicating the presence of a disease process prior to the occurrence of specific symptoms (e.g. perimenopause symptoms emerge before full onset of menopause symptoms).
Prognosis

Promising practices

Prone

Prophylaxis
Strategies and programs based on theory or research, with some scientific data showing their effectiveness but without enough evidence to support generalizable conclusions.

The expected course of a disease or outcome of a treatment (plural, prognoses).

The prevention of disease by employing a specific preventive measure.

Lying flat, face downward.
Proprioception

Prosody

Prostaglandins

Protected Health Information (PHI)
Characteristics of speech, such as rhythm and inflections, used to express meaning.

A person’s sense of where their body (or limbs) are in space.

Identifying health information that can be linked to a person individually.

A group of lipid compounds that act like hormones and are enzymatically derived from fatty acids.
Protection and Advocacy (P&A)

Pruning

Pseudoaneurysm

Pseudobulbar affect (PBA) or emotional incontinence
The process of removal of neuronal branches that are unnecessary in the brain; a normal part of development which results in more effective synaptic configurations.

Systems in every state, created by the federal government to have authority to investigate allegations of abuse in public facilities and to represent individuals or groups of individuals with disabilities in advocacy matters, including complaints and litigation.

A medical condition in which there is uncontrollable laughing or crying due to an emotional mismatch in the brain; a person with PBA might laugh at a sad or distressing situation or may cry at a funny one. PBA is found in stroke survivors, persons with TBI, or individuals with Lou Gehrig’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, or dementia.

A hematoma formed as a result of a leaking artery outside the arterial wall, yet continues to communicate with the artery; differs from an aneurysm in that the latter is a localized dilatation of all layers of the arterial wall.
Psychoactive substance misuse

Psychoeducation

Psychological fatigue

Psychometrics
Education offered about mental health issues to enable the client to deal with the condition in an optimal manner.

The use of any psychoactive drug for non-medical purposes.

Branch of psychology that deals with the design, administration, and interpretation of quantitative tests for the measurement of psychological variables such as intelligence, aptitude, and personality traits.

A state of weariness related to reduced motivation, prolonged mental activity, or boredom that occurs in situations such as chronic stress, anxiety or depression.
Psychosocial

PTSD Checklist (PCL)

Public domain

Pudendal nerve
A 17-item self report questionnaire based on DSM-IV diagnostic criteria for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; takes 5-7 minutes to complete.

The PCL is in the public domain and is available at www.bhevolution.org/public/document/pcl.pdf

Involving both psychological and social aspects.

The main nerve of the perineum, carrying sensation from the genitalia; also controls the motor functions of the sphincter muscles that are engaged when voluntarily emptying the bladder or the rectum.

Works whose intellectual property rights have expired, meaning they are available to everyone at no cost; examples include the works of Beethoven, Shakespeare, and Isaac Newton, among others.
Pulmonary embolism

Quadrants

Quality of life (QOL) scale

Quaternary blast injuries
A term used when a thing is divided into four sections.

A blockage of a main artery in the lung; frequently caused by a blood clot that has travelled from elsewhere in the body (often a DVT).

Occur through the inhalation of gases or other toxic substances released by a bomb or IED.

The QOL scale is a valid instrument used to measure life satisfaction, usually in conjunction with a health issue of some kind. One of the most frequently used QOL scales is the SF-36, a self-report patient questionnaire.
Race

Racial/cultural identity development model (R/CID)

Ranchos level

Randomized controlled trial (RCT)
The R/CID model of cultural identity development consists of five stages: 1) conformity, 2) dissonance, 3) resistance and immersion, 4) introspection, and 5) integrative awareness.

A biological marker and social construct based on geo-historical location.

A type of scientific experiment in which the population being studied are randomly assigned to one of several treatment groups (which are then compared to one another) or some to the treatment group (the group being given the program or treatment method) and some to a control group (those who were not exposed to the treatment). The RCT is considered the gold standard for research studies.

Refers to a score derived from the Ranchos Los Amigos Level of Cognitive Functioning Scale (LCFS).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rapid eye movement (REM) sleep</th>
<th>Reactive axonal sprouting</th>
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<td>Reasonable accommodations</td>
<td>Receptive language</td>
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800.968.6644 • rainbowrehab.com
When a subset of neural projections to a brain region is lost, remaining ones sprout and form new synaptic connections onto the partially denervated neurons.

A stage of sleep in which there are numerous, rhythmic movements of the eyes. Vividly recalled dreams generally occur during REM sleep, although dreams can occur in other sleep stages. A typical individual will have 4 to 5 REM cycles per night.

The ability to understand language.

A provision required by law to make facilities, educational settings, and workplaces accessible to people with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are required as long as it does not constitute an undue hardship on the employer’s business.
Receptor sites

Referred pain

Reflective listening

Reflexic bladder
The perception of pain in one area of the body that is initiated in a different region. This is not to be confused with radiating pain.

Neurotransmitter-specific sites on the receiving neurons.

Involuntary bladder contractions in persons with spinal cord injury (SCI), which can lead to urinary accidents.

A technique used in interviewing a person, in which the counselor checks their understanding by paraphrasing the person’s response in the interviewer’s own words.
Reinforcement

Reinforcer

Reliability

Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS)
A term used in operant conditioning, in which a reward or the removal of a noxious stimulus (such as an electric shock) increases the probability of a desired behavior.

Something that strengthens or encourages a behavior.

A neuropsychological exam that, through ten subtests, assesses five domains: visuospatial/constructional, language, attention, delayed memory, and immediate memory. RBANS takes roughly 30 minutes to administer.


A reliable measure is one that measures consistently when applied to different individuals, at different times, and in different situations. It refers the repeatability and consistency of a measure.
Reserve setting

Resilience

Resource facilitation (RF)

Resource utilization
An ordinary process of positive adaption to stress, adversity, or trauma. Many simplify the definition of resilience as the ability to bounce back from difficult circumstances and mistakenly believe it is a trait that people either possess or do not possess. When working with survivors of brain injury and their families, it may be better conceptualized as promoting the development of a new set of skills that anyone can learn, which allows one to bounce forward after injury.

The extent to which resources are put to use in order to maximize production or outcomes.

Detailed projection of charges for future medical services and products; used in financial planning for determining the settlement amount in a legal claim.

“A partnership that helps people and communities choose, get and keep information, services and supports to make informed choices and meet their goals.”
Response to Intervention (RTI)  Response/behavior (R)

Restorative approach  Restorative
Anything that can be done and measured; part of the four-term contingency.

A 3-tiered process that provides academic support to students who demonstrate academic difficulties before they are referred for a special education evaluation.

A cognitive rehabilitation approach that assumes repeated exposure and repetition of stimulation through experience can change the brain's circuitry causing reorganization of the injured brain.

Based on the premise of neuroplasticity, a form of cognitive rehabilitation that aims to re-establish lost functions or develop new functions.
Restraint

Reticular activating system (RAS)

Retina

Retinal hemorrhage
The RAS modulates or changes arousal, alertness, concentration, and basic biological rhythms.

Restraint is generally defined as any manual, mechanical, chemical, or other means of restricting movement or access to one’s body, against one’s will. This may include other people holding a person; restricting movement through straps, belts, helmets, placement in wheelchairs or geri-chairs that the person cannot get out of, or other mechanical means; or using medications or other chemical compounds to subdue a person’s actions.

Bleeding in eyes; one of the diagnostic indicators of abusive head trauma (AHT).

The inner lining of the eye. The retina is multi-layered and is lined with blood vessels.
Retrograde amnesia

Return to Duty (RTD)

Review of systems

Right and left hemispheres
Plan for resuming work activities; may be either full or restricted.

Loss of access to memories before the event that caused the amnesia.

The sides of the cerebrum or cerebellum.

A standard part of a full history and physical examination.
Risk management

Romberg

Rubrospinal tract

S.M.A.R.T. goals
A test of balance performed as part of a neurological evaluation.

Identification of potential risks inherent in a particular industry, environment, or project, along with plans to mitigate those risks; in addition, the monitoring of the probability and controlling of the impact of unfortunate events, should they occur. For example, earthquake readiness planning for communities on fault lines; containment plans for ports that receive ships carrying oil; or personnel policies for proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials.

Goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-limited.

Efferent nerve bundle descending from the midbrain with input from the ipsilateral cerebral cortex and contralateral cerebellar nuclei with projections to the anterior cervical spinal cord via interneurons; assists with fine motor control.
Saccades

Sacral foramina

Sacral nerve roots

Sacralization
Holes in the sacrum, through which nerves from the cauda equina pass.

Fast eye movements from one target to another (allow us to move word to word when reading or object to object when driving).

The term used when a lumbar disc is fused to the sacrum.

These five sacral nerves arise from the area of the sacrum and supply the bladder, rectum, the genitalia, and the descending colon.
Sacroiliac joint

Sacrum

Sagittal plane

Salient
Comprised of five bones that are fused together into a large bony structure in the middle of the low back region. Where the sacrum and ilium meet.

Most important or worthy of attention.

Midline.
Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS)

Scatter skills (also known as splinter skills)

Screening and brief intervention (SBI)

Seclusion
Highly specific, isolated skills considerably above the person’s overall performance ability. They may occur out of order in the developmental sequence. Children with scatter skills may be highly able and talented in certain areas while, at the same time, having surprising gaps in other areas.

A 5-item self-report measure that takes approximately 5 minutes to administer; a higher SWLS score indicates a higher quality of life (QOL).

Available at http://www.ppc.sas.upenn.edu/lifesatisfactionscale.pdf

Seclusion is generally defined as isolating a person from others and physically preventing him or her from leaving a confined area. Different states have different definitions of seclusion, but this may include placing a person in a locked time-out room, placing a person in solitary confinement, or physically preventing a person from leaving his or her room by stopping the person in the doorway.

An evidence-based practice that utilizes a set of questions and brief discussion follow-up between the counselor and the client for at-risk drinkers.
Second impact syndrome (SIS)  Secondary blast injury

Secondary fatigue  Secondary gain
Caused by projected or falling debris or explosive fragments that impact the body or head.

Occurs when an athlete or individual sustains an initial concussion and then sustains a second head injury before symptoms from the first have fully resolved; can occur minutes, days, or weeks after the initial concussion; and can be fatal or result in severe disability. SIS may occur due to diffuse cerebral swelling or secondary to a subdural hematoma.

The benefits, such as money or attention, gained from having an illness.

A number of factors that may exacerbate fatigue, such as pain, sleep disturbance or stress.
Secondary headache

Secondary injury

Selective attention

Self-advocate
Pathophysiological events that occur following the initial primary injury to the brain.

A headache that may have an identifiable cause that can be determined.

A person who advocates for himself or herself by exercising personal choice and free will.

The ability to maintain attention in the presence of distractions.
Self-awareness

Semantic memory

Sensorimotor

Sensorimotor cortex
General knowledge or facts about the world.

The capacity to perceive the ‘self’ in relatively objective terms while maintaining a sense of subjectivity.

The region of the cerebral cortex that receives and processes sensory input from various parts of the body.

Functioning of both sensory and motor systems together.
Sensory memory  Sensory stimulation

Sequela  Serotonin
Focused presentation of different stimuli to gauge responses to sensory input and facilitate increased response consistency.

Information from each of the five senses, held in memory for a few seconds immediately after the item is perceived.

A neurotransmitter associated with mood disorders, particularly depression.

A secondary result of disease, injury or condition (sequelae is the plural form).
Severe TBI

Sexual ideation

Shaken baby syndrome (SBS)

Shaken impact syndrome
Sexual thoughts.

Injury to the head resulting in a loss of consciousness of 24 hours or more.

A traumatic brain injury due to shaking along with impact with a hard or soft surface (mattress, wall, etc.).

A traumatic brain injury due to shaking only.
Shaping

Short-term memory

Shrapnel

Silent
The capacity to hold a small amount of information in one’s mind (also called working memory) for a brief period of time (a few minutes to hours).

A term used in operant conditioning; to modify behavior by rewarding changes that tend toward a desired response.

Without outward signs.

Projected or falling explosive fragments that impact the body or head.
Sinus arrest

Sinus arrhythmia

Sleep apnea

Small bowel tube feeding
Normal increase in heart rate occurring with inspiration (breathing in).

A pause in electrical impulses of the heart, usually followed by a new sinus beat; if no pacemaker begins activity, cardiac arrest results.

Feeding tubes placed into the duodenum (small bowel) to reduce risk of aspiration.

A sleep disorder in which breathing is disturbed or interrupted during sleep; often diagnosed after a sleep study has been conducted to determine the presence of the condition and appropriate treatment.
Smart phone

Smooth pursuits

Snellen eye chart

Social intelligence
Eye movements following a slow moving target that keep an image still.

A type of mobile phone (cell phone) equipped with advanced computing capabilities; may include web browsing, e-mail functions, digital camera, a global positioning system (GPS), media player, and mobile payment functions.

A distinct set of skills necessary in order to successfully navigate the environment.

The standard eye chart (with alphabetic letters in varying sizes) used by eye care professionals to measure visual acuity. A modified Snellen chart for children or semi-literate or illiterate adult patients uses familiar symbols (house, heart, etc).
Social Security Act

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Sociorace

Somatization
A federal program that provides financial benefits to eligible persons with disabilities (having worked a certain period of time and paid into Social Security taxes).

A federal law, enacted in 1935, that provides cash benefits and health care plans for individuals who are aged, disabled, and those with low income.

Reported physical symptoms with no apparent biological cause that may prove to be a result of mental anxiety.

The role of socio-historical realities for groups when examining racial identity.
Somatoagnosia

Somatosensory system

Spasticity

Special Needs Trust
Nerve impulses regarding proprioception, tactile sensation, thermal sensation, pressure sensation, and pain.

Lack of awareness of body structure and body part relationships.

A legal arrangement and financial agreement that allows a person with brain injury to receive income without reducing their eligibility for the public assistance disability benefits provided by Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, or Medicaid.

Involuntary, abnormal motoric patterns; may interfere with a person’s general functioning, self-care, and mobility.
Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI)

Spectatoring

Spinal column

Spinal cord injury (SCI)
A sexual intervention technique suggested by Masters and Johnson involving a person’s focusing on himself or herself from a third-person perspective during sexual activity (rather than focusing on their sexual partner or on their own sensations); often utilized to decrease performance anxiety or premature ejaculation.

Adapting, as appropriate to the needs of the child with a disability, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to ensure access of the child to the general curriculum, so that he or she can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children.

Damage to the spinal cord resulting in a change in muscular and sensory function that may be either permanent or temporary.

The spine; consists of 33 vertebrae, joined together with discs and ligaments.
Spinal foramen

Spinoreticular tract

Spinotectal tract

Spinothalamic tracts
The afferent nerve tract that sends sensory information from the body to the reticular formation of the thalamus.

The hole in the side of the vertebra, where the spinal nerves exit.

Afferent nerves; the lateral spinothalamic tract mediates pain and temperature sensation and the ventral spinothalamic tract transmits impulses of touch to the brain.

The tract that travels in the ventral-lateral cord and carries information from the spinal cord to the tectum, which possesses information from the eyes and other sensory organs.
Spinous process

Splinter skills

Spondylosis

Spontaneous recovery
See scatter skills. The bony projection on the posterior of the vertebra.

Re-emergence of behavior previously extinguished. Arthritis of the neck.
SSRIs

Stability Triangle

Standard (universal) precautions

Standardized Assessment of Concussion (SAC)
A construct used to illustrate the need to stabilize one medically, behaviorally, and with regard to activity.

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; a class of anti-depressants.

An assessment tool that provides a gross measure of four cognitive domains.

An approach to infection control that helps prevent transmission of blood-borne pathogens. Essentially, universal precautions require the use of personal protective equipment with all patients—not just those known to be infected—to provide standard and unprejudiced care for those who are.
Standardized assessment

State Children’s Health Insurance Program
(SCHIP, now known as CHIP)

State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI)

Status epilepticus
A federal law enacted in 1997 to cover uninsured children in families with incomes that are modest but too high to qualify for Medicaid. CHIP is administered by the states but is jointly funded by federal dollars and matching funds from the recipient state.

A test (assessment) that is given in the same manner to all test takers.

More than 30 minutes of continuous seizure activity or two or more sequential seizures without full recovery of consciousness between seizures.

A 40-question psychological assessment tool based on self-reported answers on a 4-point Likert scale; measures state anxiety, situational anxiety, and trait anxiety.
A life-threatening skin condition; cell death causes skin cells of the epidermal layer to separate from the dermal layer. Caused by certain medication, infections, or cancers.

Laws enacted by Congress or a state legislature in the form of individual statutes, which together form a code.

Changes in the dendrites and dendritic spines of neurons following learning, stress, long-term potentiation, or exposure to toxins.

Cognitive rehabilitation component that focuses on the application of compensatory approaches to address residual deficits not amenable to natural recovery and cognitive training.
Student Study Team (SST)

Subarachnoid space

Subdural hematoma

Substance misuse
The space between the arachnoid layer and the pia mater, in which cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) circulates.

A school team consisting of the parents of a child with a suspected learning difference and educational professionals serving the child, who convene to develop long- and short-range goals and make recommendations for intervention to assure a child’s progress in school.

Consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, and the use of prescription drugs exceeding the prescribed amount (or use of another person’s prescription drugs).

Bleeding into the space between the dura mater and the arachnoid layers of the meninges.
Substance P

Substance use disorder (SUD)

Substances

Subventricular zone (SVZ)
Continued substance use despite health, psychological, or social consequences.

A neuropeptide secreted by nerves and inflammatory cells; is associated with inflammatory processes and pain.

A paired brain structure that lines the lateral ventricles. It is composed of four layers of varying cell density and thickness and is one of the places in the adult mammalian brain where neurogenesis has been demonstrated.

Alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs, marijuana, and tobacco.
Successive approximations

Superior colliculus

Sumatriptan

Superior
A type of medication for migraine headaches (Imitrex).

A term used in operant conditioning, in which small steps that will eventually lead to the desired behavior are taught and reinforced, and then another step follows that leads one closer to the actual behavior; used by B.F. Skinner in shaping behavior of pigeons, in which they were taught to turn in progressively wider angles.

Top; from above.

A small, round structure in the midbrain, below the thalamus.
Supination

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supported employment

Suprachiasmatic nucleus
A federal program that provides financial benefits to low-income individuals who are blind, disabled, or over the age of 65.

Rotation of the arm and forearm so that the palm is facing upward.

A tiny region in the brain’s midline that is responsible for controlling the body's circadian rhythms.

Competitive employment with ongoing support services.
Suprapubic catheter  Suspendable offenses

Sustained attention  Symmetric
Actions for which a student can be suspended from school.

A catheter placed above the pubic bone through an opening in the skin.

The left side matches the right.

The ability to maintain attention to complete a task accurately and efficiently over a period of time.
Synapse

Synaptic gap

Synaptogenesis

Syncope
Space between the axon and the other neuron’s dendrite.

The junction between the axon of one neuron and the dendrite of another neuron.

Loss of consciousness and posture; also known as passing out.

The formation of new neuronal connections.
Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone (SIADH)

Syndrome of the trephined

Tablet device

Tachycardia
Syndrome following craniectomy in which decreased CSF pressure and shrinking of the skin flap leads to alteration of blood flow and multiple symptoms (headache, dizziness, cognitive changes, etc.).

Caused by excessive production of ADH by the pituitary; also called Schwartz-Bartter syndrome; symptoms include nausea, vomiting, irritability, confusion, seizures, and coma.

An abnormally fast heart beat when at rest.

A mobile wireless computer that is more compact than a laptop; includes a touchscreen to eliminate the need for a keyboard, may or may not be equipped for wi-fi access to the internet, and often includes a digital camera and a microphone. Tablets are typically larger than a smartphone, but have essentially the same functions.
Tachypnea

Tactile stimuli

Target behavior

Task analysis
A sensory stimulus produced to determine the ability to feel.

An abnormal increase in breathing rate.

A list of very specific steps involved in completing a task; can be used to break down larger tasks into smaller component steps.

The behavior to be changed.
Tau proteins

Technology training

TDDs

Tectospinal tract
Telecommunication devices for the deaf.

Pathologic proteins located in the axons of neurons. These are changed structurally by the metabolic breakdown of brain cells following trauma, and create a chronic inflammatory state, leading to progressive degeneration of the central nervous system.

Efferent nerve tract descends from the superior colliculus to the anterior cervical spinal cord; directs head movements in response to visual and auditory stimuli.

A therapeutic training modality in which a person with a functional deficit learns the use of an adaptive technology with the help of a skilled professional (e.g. an occupational therapist works with a wounded veteran who cannot type to learn how to operate speech recognition software, so that he can communicate online).
Telehealth

Tender point

TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) unit

Tension-type headaches
A tender point elicits pain at the point of tenderness.

The most common form of primary headache. Tension-type headaches share the same common pathophysiology and same nociceptive pathways often involved with migraine, craniomandibular, and cervicogenic headaches. This makes this type of headache very difficult to diagnose and treat, as it is often mistaken for other headaches.

Delivery of health services via the use of electronic and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance health care.

A medical device that delivers small electrical currents to targeted body parts where there is injury or pain.
Tertiary blast injury

Thalamus

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Therapeutic environmental stimuli management
The part of the brain that acts as a major relay station for incoming and outgoing sensory information.

Caused as the displaced body impacts the ground, a wall, or any other object.

Modification of the environment in which the therapy task is being conducted.

The first federal civil rights legislation for people with disabilities. The law also prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in hiring, placement, and promotion decisions.
Thoracic

Thorax

Timed-voiding

Tinnitus
Rib cage. Pertaining to the ribs.

Buzzing or ringing in the ears.

A bladder-retraining program to reduce urgency, frequency and urinary incontinence.
Tissue plasminogen activator (tPA)

Tonic posturing

Topography

Toxic mega-colon
As a person loses consciousness during a seizure, the muscles stiffen and the eyes roll back; the back arches as the muscles in the chest tighten; and it becomes more difficult for the person to breathe.

A protein involved in the breakdown of blood clots and approved for therapeutic use in stroke patients up to 3 hours after the incident.

A life-threatening complication of other colon conditions, such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease, in which infection or inflammation can cause a widening of the large intestine within 1-3 days.

A term used in behavioral psychology to describe what a behavior looks like physically.
Tracheal aspiration

Tracheostomy tube

Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)

Transfers
A tube inserted into an opening in the neck to provide oxygen-rich air into the lungs, bypassing the mouth and nose.

Entry of foreign matter, such as enteral feeding, into the respiratory system.

Moving from one surface to another.

A non-invasive method of stimulating the brain using electromagnetic induction. Used as a treatment modality for depression, stroke, migraines, dystonia, tinnitus, and Parkinson's.
Transient

Transverse process

Traumatic Brain Injury (Educational Definition)

Traumatic brain injury (TBI)
Bony projections that jut out at an angle on both sides of the vertebra. Temporary in nature.

An alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force.

A special education educational eligibility category under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for students who acquire a brain injury from trauma. The IDEA defines TBI is an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, and that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.
Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996

Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS)

Traumatic impact

Traumatic inertial injuries

Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers®
800.968.6644 • rainbowrehab.com
Established in 1987 through a federally-funded grant from National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), these programs are situated in established medical centers that provide trauma care from the initial injury to the post-acute phase of recovery.

For more information, see https://www.tbinsc.org/

A federal law enacted in 1996. It is the only federal legislation that specifically and exclusively addresses TBI in the civilian population.

Injury to the brain not caused by impact but as a result of inertial forces, such as acceleration-deceleration forces.

Injuries resulting from contact (when the head is struck by or against an object).
Tremors

Trepanning or trephination

Triage

Tricyclics
The drilling of a hole into the skull. In ancient times, trephination (trepansing) was intended to release evil spirits causing disease or mental illness. More recently, it was used for lobotomies; today, craniectomy alleviates swelling of brain tissue after traumatic brain injury or certain types of disease causing cerebral edema.

A movement disorder characterized by unpredictable movements (uncontrollable shaking) with motion or at rest.

A category of antidepressant medications sometimes used for pain management as they have a synergistic effect with other pain medications.

The sorting and categorization of medical patients according to the urgency of their care. In a military or disaster context, triage can be categorized according to a system of priorities that maximizes the potential number of survivors.
Trigeminal nucleus

Trigger point

Triptan

TTYs
A trigger point may trigger pain at the area of palpation, but also elicits referred pain at regions away from the area of palpation and can cause an autonomic response (such as nausea and dizziness).

Bundle of sensory nerves; the largest of the cranial nerve nuclei; extends through the midbrain, pons, and medulla.

Teletypewriters that enable individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired to communicate over the telephone by typing messages back and forth instead of speaking and listening.

A class of medications more specifically known as serotonin receptor agonists.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS)

Unilateral

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Universalism
A broad-based governmental bureau that oversees the cares and concerns of veterans, their spouses, and families. The VA provides vocational rehabilitation; low-interest business or housing loans, education and employment assistance (as part of the GI Bill); healthcare, pension, disability payments and survivor benefits. The Veterans Health Administration (often called the VA) provides medical care to veterans at over 1700 sites in the US.

A federal agency that provides funding for programs including NIH, SAMHSA, CDC, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and many others. The USDHHS functions to protect the health of all Americans and to provide essential human services, particularly for those least able to help themselves.

An assumption that human characteristics common to all members of the species produce psychological givens with culture influencing their development and display.

On only one side.
Urinary tract infections (UTI)

Urosepsis

Vaginismus

Validity
A severe illness caused by an infection in the urinary tract spreading to the bloodstream; can be life-threatening.

An infection affecting all or part of the urinary system (kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra).

The degree to which an instrument actually measures that which it is intended to measure; for example, the FIM™ is a valid measure of functional ability and level of assistance, but it would not be a valid measure of life satisfaction or depression.

Involuntary tightness of the pubococcygeal muscles upon attempted penetration; often linked to past sexual trauma. Treatment for vaginismus does not usually involve surgery.
Vascular headache

Vascular supply

Vasocongestion

Vasopressin
Arteries and veins) brings nutrients and oxygen to, and carbon dioxide and waste products away from, organs and limbs.

Headaches thought to be related to swelling and contraction of blood vessels, which appear to be the likely source of the pain.

Also known as Antidiuretic Hormone (ADH), important for the constriction of blood vessels and retention of water in the body.

The swelling of body tissues due to increased blood flow; often indicative of sexual arousal.
Vasoprotective

Vasospasm

Vegetative state

Veins
The construction or narrowing of blood vessels.

Blood vessels that carry blood to the heart.

Alleviating or preventing conditions related to the blood vessels.

After a coma, a low level of consciousness in which a person appears awake but can only perform certain involuntary responses, not the more complex thoughts or actions associated with awareness such as following commands, planning, remembering, and communicating.
Venous thrombus embolism (VTE)

Verbal and non-verbal communication

Venous

Vergence
Pertaining to veins.

A disease that includes both deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE).

Eyes working together.

Body language, tone, and silences.
Vertebra

Vertebral bodies

Vertebrobasilar insufficiency (VBI)

Vertical communication
The largest part of the vertebra; weight-bearing portion.

Individual bone of the spine; plural form is vertebrae.

Communication while one is up and moving about; in contrast to horizontal communication occurring while one is in bed.

A temporary lack of blood flow to the medulla, cerebrum, pons, thalamus, midbrain, and occipital cortex; symptoms vary.
Vesicles

Video modeling

Virtual reality (VR)

Visual acuity
Videos showing examples of behaviors expected; often used to teach social skills for children with special needs.

Sacs filled with neurotransmitter.

Clarity of vision.

Computer-based systems that allow an individual to view a simulated environment and dynamically respond and interact within this environment in real-time.
Visual analog scale

Visual Analogue Scale for Fatigue (VAS-F)

Visual cortex

Visual pursuit
A measure of subjective quantification of fatigue levels, requiring the person to respond to descriptors on two subscales.

A pictorial tool to measure subjective level of pain. The scale typically goes from 0 to 10, with 10 being the worst).

Eye movements following a moving object.

Part of the cerebral cortex responsible for processing visual information, located in the occipital lobes.
Vitreous humor

Vocational

Vocational case coordination (VCC)

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services
Relating to the special skills or training needed for a particular job or occupation.

The jelly-like substance that fills the interior of the eyeball.

An array of services provided to those needing assistance with employment. VR may include assessment for determining eligibility for services; vocational counseling, guidance, and referral services; vocational training including on-the-job training; personal assistance services; rehabilitation technology services; job placement services; and supported employment services.

An holistic approach to vocational rehabilitation, in which VR is seen as one part of an individualized rehabilitation program.
Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Act of 1954

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)

Wada

Wechsler Memory Scale (WMS)
A memory performance test that is often predictive of the likely outcome for candidates of seizure relief surgery.

Established funding for rehabilitation professionals at the college and university levels; provided funding for the remodeling (and other improvements) of rehabilitation facilities and increased federal funding to states; also increased services for people with developmental delays and mental illness. This law was largely replaced by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide orthotics, prosthetics, communication devices, and other assistive technologies to persons with disabilities.

A neuropsychological test of memory function. Performance is measured in five areas: visual memory, auditory memory, immediate memory, visual working memory, and delayed memory. The WMS-IV features an optional cognitive exam for those with suspected cognitive deficits.

Available at http://pearsonassess.ca/haiweb/Cultures/en-CA/Products/Product+Detail.htm?CS_ProductID=WMS-IV&CS_Category=psychological-memory&CS_Catalog=TPC-ACatalog

An assessment test measuring intelligence in adults. The current version is comprise of 10 subtests, and indices measure performance in verbal comprehension, working memory, perceptual organization, and processing speed.

Wernicke’s area

Westmead Post-Traumatic Amnesia Scale

Wernicke’s encephalopathy

White matter tracts
Biochemical lesions in the central nervous system caused by exhaustion of reserves of thiamine; characterized by aphasia, confusion, and ophthalmoplegia.

A part of the brain that governs a person's understanding of speech; located in the left temporal-parietal lobe area.

Found in the brain and spinal cord; composed of bundled axons and glial cells.

One of several instruments used to measure post-traumatic amnesia.

Widely accepted

Work hardening

Working memory

World Health Organization (WHO)
A concept in occupational therapy, in which a person with an injury works with an occupational therapist on the patient’s identified neuromuscular deficits in simulated work conditions in a physical therapy gym. The emphasis is often on restoring musculoskeletal function while safely performing work demands. Often a part of a return-to-work program.

Instruments that have withstood substantial rigor in the scientific community and are endorsed for use without being subject to question.

An agency of the United Nations focusing on international public health, including the monitoring of disease outbreaks, health system performance, and surveillance of potential pandemics.

Temporary storage and active processing of information.
World Health Organization Quality of Life (WHOQOL) scale
A psychological perception of the world that determines how we think, behave, and feel.

A 100-question scale developed for cross-cultural use. The WHOQOL requires the participant to reflect on their physical health, psychological health, level of independence, social relationships, environment, and spirituality/religion/personal beliefs. Questions are answered on a Likert scale, with a higher score signifying a lower QOL.

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