

Challenges in TBI Transitional Care

Examining Traumatic Brain Injury as a Chronic Condition: A Workshop

Session 4: Gaps in The Current Landscape of Rehabilitation Care and Specialized Services for TBI as a Chronic Condition

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Challenges in TBI Transitional Care

- Poor post-hospital outcomes
- Numerous TBI-related issues negatively impacting self-management
 - Navigating transitions in health and healthcare systems
 - Coordinating care
 - Following provider guidance
- Lacking pre- and post-hospital support
 - Patient/family education
 - Providers with TBI expertise in outpatient setting
 - Care continuity
 - Limited & fragmented access to post-hospital services and supports
- Increased burden on family
- Desire for more support from providers

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Social Determinants of Health Influence Care Transitions

1. Economic Stability

- Finances: health insurance status, money saved pre-injury
- Home environment stability
- Food insecurity

2. Education Access and Quality

- Educational level and access to quality education
- Personal health literacy

3. Health Care Access and Quality

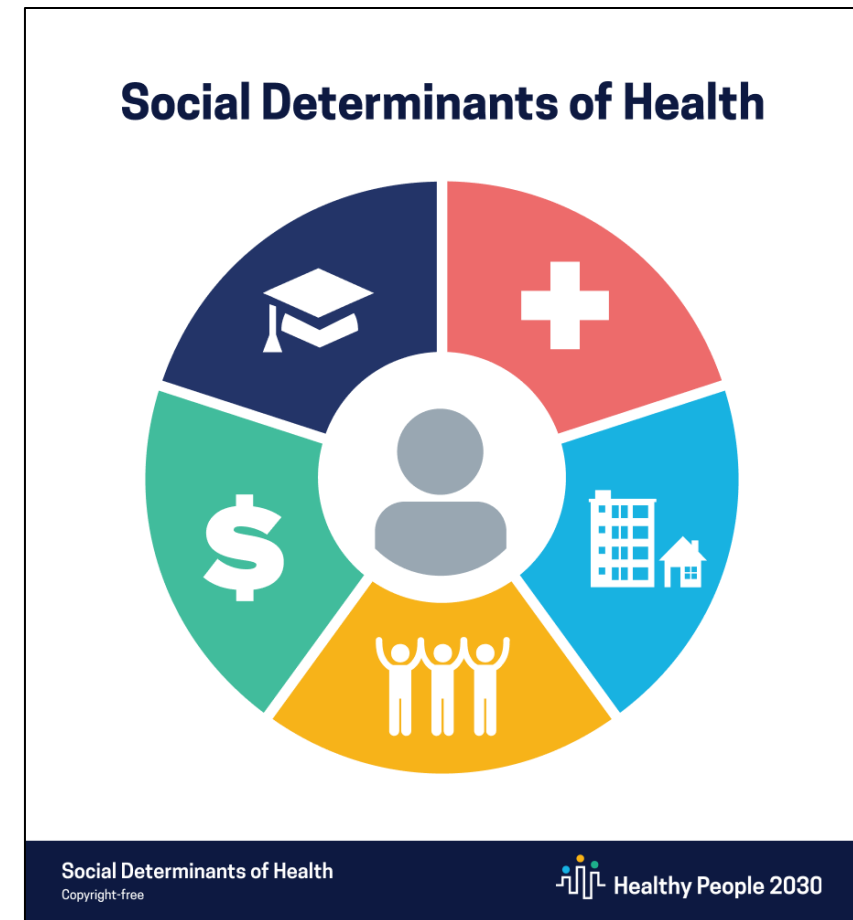
- Access to high quality providers in close proximity
- Language barriers when communicating with health and service providers
- Support from providers to manage wellbeing, health, healthcare
- Resources from health system

4. Neighborhood and Built Environment

- Safety of home environment
- Presence of hazards in or near environment

5. Social and Community Context

- Support from family, friends to manage wellbeing, health, and healthcare
- Access to community-based resources



<https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>

Addressing TBI-Related Challenges with Transitional Care*

Transitional care is defined as actions in the clinical encounter designed to ensure the coordination and continuity of care for patients transferring between different locations or levels of care.



*High need for more TBI-specific transitional care programs

Sample Transitional Care Strategies

1. Identification of family caregiver(s) to support patient
2. Discharge planning/preparation
3. Patient/family needs assessment
4. Goal assessment, setting, and support for goal achievement
5. Referral to community-based services and resources based on needs and goals; **services & resources may be TBI-specific**
6. Patient/family education and training **on self- and family-management of TBI and on Brain Injury Coping Skills (BICS)**
7. Medication / complexity management
8. Care coordination / patient navigation
9. Interdisciplinary provider collaboration and accountability
10. Development of individualized urgent/emergent care plan(s)
11. Addressing patient/caregiver well-being
12. Hand-off to resource/service-providing entity **(e.g., BIAA or state-affiliated Brain Injury Association) for further support**

Note: **Red font** indicates TBI-specific components

BETTER: A TBI Transitional Care Intervention

BETTER TBI Transitional Care Program Activities

1. Assessment of patient / family needs and referral to community-based resources by phone

2. Patient goal setting and review of goals by phone

3. Health care coordination by phone (includes updating / establishing primary care physician)

4. Availability of transitional care manager to patient / family by phone

5. Training on self- and family-management and brain injury coping skills by phone or Zoom

6. Warm hand off / referral to state-affiliated Brain Injury Association

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Thank you!

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