

## Acquired Brain Injury – Paediatric Full Clinical Guideline – Derby only

Reference no.: CH CLIN G 104/ June 24/v003

### **Purpose**

To ensure the smooth transition of children with acquired brain injury from one NHS health provider to another.

To facilitate the multidiscipline management of children with acquired brain injury.

### **Definition**

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is damage to the brain after birth including traumatic brain injuries, stroke, brain tumour, haemorrhage, viral infection including meningitis, encephalitis or septicaemia.

### **Management**

There is now an agreed Acquired Brain Injury Pathway (please see attached document). The following issues are highlighted:

- All children with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) admitted to the wards need to be referred to the Clinical Psychology service whilst an inpatient. Telephone enquires/consultations are welcome but will always need to be accompanied by a written referral letter.
- ABI can present with observable effects (e.g. weakness, speech problems) and also hidden effects (memory impairment, attention difficulties). There will be some children where there are no physical effects. This does not exclude the likelihood of more subtle cognitive impairments both now and in the future.
- All relevant members of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) including medical, education and social care representatives need to meet to communicate, plan and organise ongoing care.
- It is important to advise all children with ABI to have a low level of environmental and social stimulation. This is likely to mean limited visits from friends and family members. This initial advice would need to be reviewed at regular intervals.
- At present there is no published research identifying exact time frames for optimum “rest” prior to return to school/college and each case/condition will be unique in how effects are manifested. However, based upon practice-based evidence it is advised that all children have a minimum of two-three weeks total absence from school prior to a gradual

part time reintroduction.

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### Documentation Controls

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**Appendices – see below**

Appendix 1

**Acquired Brain Injury Pathway**

