CBIS Certification
Test Flashcards

Words and definitions from the EBIG 5.0 Glossary

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Words and definitions for these flashcards provided by the EBIG 5.0 Glossary published by the Brain Injury Association of America in 2016.
| 4 Ts | Allied Health Professionals |
| 504 Plan | ALLodynia |
| Abbreviated Injury Scale for the Head | Allogeneic |
| Abuse | Alteration in Mental State |
| Abusive Head Trauma | Alteration of Consciousness |
| Academic Intelligence | Alternating Attention |
| Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences | Alzheimer’s Disease |
| Acceleration-Deceleration Forces | American Academy of Sleep Medicine |
| Accreditation | American Association of Nurse Life Care Planners |
| Acculturation | American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine |
| Acquired Brain Injury | Americans with Disabilities Act |
| Action Potential | Amygdala |
| Activities of Daily Living | Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis |
| Activity Limitations | Anhedonia |
| Acute Care | Anorgasmia |
| Adaptability | Anosognosia |
| Adduction | Anoxia |
| Adenosine Triphosphate | Antecedent |
| Administrative Law | Antecedent-Based Behavior Model |
| Advocacy | Anterior |
| Advocate | Anterior and Posterior Spinocerebellar Tracts |
| Affect | Anterior Cingulate |
| Afferent | Anterior Cord Syndrome |
| Agitation | Anterior Corticospinal Tract |
| Agnosia | Anterior Longitudinal Ligament |
| Agonist | Anterior Spinal Artery |
| Air Evacuation | Anterograde Amnesia |
| Airborne Pathogens | Anti-Cholinergic |
| Akinesia | Anxiety |
| Alcohol Use Disorders | Apathy |
| Identification Test | Aphasia |
| Alcohol, Smoking and Substance-use Involvement Screening Test | Apneic |
| Apoptosis | APOEe4 |
| App | Appropriate Auxiliary Aids and Services |
| Appropriate Auxiliary Aids and Services | Apraxia |
| Apraxia | Apraxia of Speech |
| Apraxia of Speech | Arachidonic Acid Cascade |
| Arachnoid Mater | Areflexic Bowel |
| Areflexic Bowel | Arousal |
| Arousal | Arteries |
| Arteries | Articulation |
| Articulation | Ascending Reticular Activating System |
| Ascending Reticular Activating System | Assimilation |
| Assimilation | Assistive Technology for Cognition |
| Assistive Technology for Cognition | Astrocytes |
| Astrocytes | Ataxia |
| Ataxia | Athetoid Movements |
| Athetoid Movements | Atlanto-Occipital Joint |
| Atlanto-Occipital Joint | Atlas |
| Atlas | Atrophy |
| Atrophy | Attention Process Training Program |
| Attention Process Training Program | Auditory Cortex |
| Auditory Cortex | Auditory Stimuli |
| Auditory Stimuli | Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metric |
| Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metric | Autonomic Dysfunction Syndrome |
| Autonomic Dysfunction Syndrome | Autonomic Dysregulation |
| Autonomic Dysregulation | Avoidance |
| Avoidance | Avolition |
| Avolition | Awareness |
| Awareness | Axial |
| Axial | Axis |
Axis I Disorders
Axis II Disorders
Axon
Axonal Shearing
Ballisms
Barrow Neurological Institute
Fatigue Scale
Basal Ganglia
Baseline
Beck Anxiety Inventory
Beck Depression Inventory
Benchmarking
Benign Neglect
Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo
Best Practices
Binocular Vision
Biopsychosocial Model
Bipolar Affective Disorder
Bipolar I
Bipolar II
Bisacodyl Suppository
Blast Injury
Blast Plus (+)
Blood-Brain Barrier
Body Image
Bradycardia
Bradykinin
Brain Arteriovenous Malformation
Brain Hypothesis
Brain Injury Association of America
Brain Injury Family Intervention
Brain Injury Family Intervention-Adolescents
Brain Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group
Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor
Brainstem
Broca’s Area
Brown-Sequard Syndrome
CAGE
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
Care Management
Case Management
Case Management Society of America
Cataplexy
Catatonia
Categorization Program
Catheter
Cauda Equina
Causal
Causes of Fatigue Questionnaire
Ceiling Effect
Cell Body
Cellulitis
Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Central Cord Syndrome
Central Nervous System
Central Sensitization
Central Sleep Apnea
Cerebellum
Cerebral Cortex
Cerebral Edema
Cerebral Vascular Accident
Cerebrospinal Fluid
Cerebrum
Certified Life Care Planner
Certified Nurse Life Care Planner
Cervical
Cervicalgia
Charges
Choreiform
Choroid Plexus
Chronic Headache
Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy
Circadian Rhythm
Cisterns
Clinical Neuropsychology
Clinical Practice Guidelines
Clonic Jerks
Clonus
Closed Injuries
Clostridium Difficile
Coccyx
Cochlea
Cognition
Cognitive Distance
Cognitive Rehabilitation
Cognitive Skill Memory
Cognitive Training
Coma
Combat Stress
Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities
Common Data Elements
Common Law
Community Enfranchisement
Community Integrated Rehabilitation
Co-morbid
Compensatory
Compensatory Strategies
Competency
Computed Tomography
Concomitant
Concussion
Word List cont.
Click word to go to definition

Confabulation
Consequence
Consequence-Based Interventions
Consequence-Based Programming
Consolidation
Constitutional Law
Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy
Contingency
Contractures
Contralateral
Contrecoup Effect
Controlled Substances
Conus Medullaris
CONUS
Convergence Insufficiency
Coping Hypothesis
Corpus Callosum
Cortices
Costo-Vertebral Junctions
Coup Injury
CPAP
CRAFFT
Craig Handicap Assessment and Reporting Technique
Craig Handicap Assessment and Reporting Technique Short Form
Cranial Nerve
Cranietomy
Cranioplasty
Craniotomy
Crepitus
Crystallized Intelligence
Culture
Cyclothymia
DAVOS
Decerebration
Deep Vein Thrombosis
Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center
Delayed Ejaculation
Delayed Orgasm
Dementia
Dendrites
Dens
Dentate Gyrus
Department of Developmental Services
Deployment
Dermatitis
Diabetes Insipidus
Diagnostic Nerve Block
Diaphoresis
Diencephalon
Diffuse Axonal Injury
Diffuse Injury
Diffusion Tensor Imaging
Digital Stimulation
Dilation
Diplopia
Disability Rating Scale
Discrimination
Discriminative Stimulus
Discs
Disinhibition
Disorder(s) of Consciousness
Diversity
Divided Attention
Domestic Violence
Dopamine
Dose-Dependent Effect
Dose-Response Study
Dual Diagnosis
Dualism
Dura Mater
Durable
Duty to Warn
Dyad(ic)
Dysarthria
Dysarthric Speech
Dysautonomia
Dyscontrol
Dyslipidemia
Dysmenorrhea
Dyspareunia
Dysphagia
Dystonia
Early Post-Traumatic Seizures
Echoic
Edema
Education about cognitive weaknesses and strengths
EEG
Efferent
Efficacy
Eighth Cranial Nerve
Elopement
Emergent Awareness
Emotional Intelligence
Encoding
EOD
Epidural Hematoma
Episodic Memory
Epley Maneuver
Epworth Sleepiness Scale
Erectile Dysfunction
Establishing Operation
Estrogen
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European Federation of Neurological Societies
Exacerbate
Examiner Bias  
Excitatory Post-Synaptic Potentials  
Excitotoxicity  
Excoriation  
Executive Function  
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Explicit Memory  
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Extenders  
Extensor Muscle  
Extinction Burst  
Extinction  
Facets  
Fading  
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Family Systems Theory  
Fasciculus Cuneatus and Funiculus Gracilis  
Fatigue  
Fatigue Severity Scale  
Federal Poverty Level  
Filum Terminale  
FIM™  
Fine Motor Control  
Fissure  
Fixation  
Fixed Battery  
Flashbacks  
Flexible Battery  
Flexor Muscle  
Floor Effect  
Focal Injury  
Focal Seizures  
Focused Attention  
Foley Catheter  
Foot Drop Deformities  
Foramen Magnum  
Foramen of Magendie  
Four-term Contingency  
Frasier Free Water Protocol  
Frontal Poles  
Frontal Release  
Frontal, Parietal, Temporal and Occipital Lobes  
Functional Activities Training  
Functional Analysis  
Functional Assessment Measure  
Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plan  
Functional Systems Model  
Functional  
Functionally Equivalent Alternative  
GABA  
Gag Reflex  
Gait  
Galveston Orientation and Amnesia Test  
Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease  
Gastrostomy  
Gender  
Gender Role  
Generalizability  
Generalization  
Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale  
Generalized Anxiety Disorder  
Genitourinary  
Glasgow Coma Scale  
Glasgow Outcome Scale  
Glial Cells  
Gliosis  
Global Fatigue Index  
Glutamate  
Gray Matter  
Growth Hormone Deficiency  
G-tube  
Guardian of the Estate  
Guardian of the Person  
Guardianship  
Gustatory  
Gyri  
Habilitative Services  
Habitation  
Haptic  
Hazardous Use  
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act  
Heimlich Maneuver  
Hematoma  
Hematuria  
Hemiparesis  
Hemiplegia  
Heterosexism  
Heterotopic Ossification  
Hierarchy  
High-Risk Drinking  
HIPAA  
Hippocampal Atrophy  
Hippocampus  
Histamine  
Home-Grown Measures  
Homophobia  
Horizontal Communication  
Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale  
Hydrocephalus Ex-Vacuo
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Click word to go to definition

Long-term Potentiation
Loss of Consciousness
Lost Productivity
Lumbar
Lumbralization
M2P2
MACE
Maceration
Magnesium
Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Major Depressive Episode
Manic Episode
Marital Satisfaction
Marital Stability
Masticatory
Mayo-Portland Adaptability Inventory
McMaster Family Assessment Device
Measurement
MEB Discharge
MEDEVAC
Medicaid
Medicare
Medicare Set Aside
Medicare Supplement Insurance
Medulla
Meniere's Disease
Meninges
Meningitis
Metabolic Alterations
Metabolic Distress
Metabolic Syndrome
Metabolism
Metacognition
Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus
Midbrain
Mild Brain Injury
Mild Traumatic Brain Injury
Milieu
Military Occupational Specialty
Military Theater
Minimal Clinically Important Differences
Minimally Conscious State
Moderate TBI
Modified Barium Swallow Study/Test
Monism
Morbidity
Morris Water Maze
Mortality
Motivational Interviewing
Motor Learning
Multicultural Psychology
Multiculturalism
Multidimensional Assessment of Fatigue
Multiple Sleep Latency Test
Myoclonic Jerks
Myotendinous Lengthening
Narcolepsy
National Disability Rights Network
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research
National Institutes of Health
Natural Selection
Near Transfer
Necrosis
Neglect
Nerve Tracts
Neurobehavioral Symptom Inventory
Neurobehavioral
Neurogenesis
Neurogenic Bladder
Neuroma
Neurons
Neuropathic Pain
Neuropathy
Neuroplasticity
Neuroprostheses
Neuroprotection
Neuropsychiatry
Neuropsychological Testing
Neuropsychology
Neurorehabilitation
Neurotransmitters
Neutral Monism
Nicotinamide
No Child Left Behind Act
Nocioception
Non-Native Apps
Non-Traumatic Brain Injury
Nonverbal
Nonvocal
Normalizing
Norming
Norms
NSAIDS
Nuclei
Nystagmus
Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder
Obstructive or Non-Communicating Hydrocephalus
Obstructive Sleep Apnea
Occipital Neuralgia
Occlusion
Occupational Therapy
Olfactory
Olmstead Decision
Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
Open Injury
Open-Ended Questioning
Operational Definition
Operationalization
Ophthalmoplegic Migraine
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Optic Chiasm
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Organic Personality Syndrome
Orientation Log
Oromotor
Orthoses
Orthostatic Hypotension
Orthotist
Oscilloptasia
Osmolarity
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P(A)LISSIT
PABIR
Palpation
Panic Disorder
Para-transit
Paraverbal Behavior
Parenteral
Paresis
Parkinsonism
Paroxysmal autonomic dysreflexia
Paroxysmal Autonomic Instability with Dystonia Participation
Participation Assessment with Recombined Tools-Objective Participation Restriction
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Periodic Limb Movement Disorder
Peripheral Nervous Systems
Peripheral Nociception
Persistent
Post-Concussive Symptoms
Personal Protective Equipment
Personality Disorders
Phantom Limb
Pharmacologic Neuromodulation
Photophobia
Phrenology
Physiatrist
Physical Management
Physical Therapy
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Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index
Plantar Sensation
Plasticity
Plenary Guardianship
Polycystic Ovarian Symptoms
Polypharmacy
Polysonomography
Polytherapies
Polytrauma System of Care
Polytraumatic Injuries
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Positional Asphyxia
Positive Reframing
Post-Acute Care
Post-Concussion Syndrome
Post-Controlled Cortical Impact
Post-Deployment Health Assessment
Postdrome
Posterior
Posterior Cord Syndrome
Posterior Longitudinal Ligament
Postictal Period
Post-Traumatic Amnesia
Post-Traumatic Epilepsy
Post-Traumatic Headache
Post-Traumatic Hypersomnia
Post-Traumatic Immune Paralysis
Post-Traumatic Migraine
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Power of Attorney
Practical Intelligence

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Practice Effects
Preclinical
Prefrontal Cortex
Premature Ejaculation
Premature Ventricular Contractions
Premenstrual Mood Dysphoria
Premorbid
Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance
Pressure Sores
Prevalence
Primary Blast Injury
Primary Care
PTSD Screen
Primary Fatigue
Primary Headache
Primary Injury
Primar Motor Cortex
Primary Sensory Cortex
Private School Service Plan
Privilege
Procedural Memory
Prodrome
Progesterone
Prognosis
Promising Practices
Prone
Prophylaxis
Proprioception
Prosody
Prostaglandins
Protected Health Information
Protection and Advocacy
Pruning
Pseudoaneurysm
Pseudobulbar Affect
Psychoactive Substance Misuse
Psychoeducation
Psychological Fatigue
Psychometrics
Psychosocial
PTSD Checklist
Public Domain
Pudendal Nerve
Pulmonary Embolism
Quadrants
Quality of Life Scale
Quaternary Blast Injuries
Race
Racial/Cultural Identity Development Model
Ranchos Level
Randomized Controlled Trial
Rapid Eye Movement Sleep
Reactive Axonal Sprouting
Reasonable Accommodations
Receptive Language
Receptor Sites
Referred Pain
Reflective Listening
Reflexic Bladder
Reinforcement
Reinforcer
Reliability
Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status
Reserve Setting
Resilience
Resource Facilitation
Resource Utilization
Response to Intervention
Response/Behavior
Restorative Approach
Restorative
Restraint
Reticular Activating System
Retina
Retinal Hemorrhage
Retrograde Amnesia
Return to Duty
Review of Systems
Right and Left Hemispheres
Risk Management
Romberg
Rubrospinal Tract
S.M.A.R.T. Goals
Saccades
Sacral Foramina
Sacral Nerve Roots
Sacralization
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Sacrum
Sagittal Plane
Salient
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Secondary Fatigue
Secondary Gain
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Secondary Injury
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Self-Advocate
Self-Awareness
Semantic Memory
Sensorimotor
Sensorimotor Cortex
Sensory Memory
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4 Ts
Elements affecting sexual energy within a marriage.
504 Plan

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
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.
Abbreviated Injury Scale for the Head

(AIS for the Head)
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
Abuse
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.
Abusive Head Trauma

(AHT)
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).
Academic Intelligence
(Analytical Intelligence)
Ability to solve problems in academic (classroom) settings.
Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences
(ANCDS)
A professional organization that certifies practitioners (primarily speech-language pathologists) who specialize in neurologic communication disorders.
Acceleration-Deceleration Forces
Sudden impact following a high velocity of speed, frequently resulting in brain injury.
Accreditation
A process in which certification of competency, authority, or credibility is presented.
Acculturation
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.
Acquired Brain Injury

(ABI)
An injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma.
Action Potential
An electrical impulse generated by the communication of one neuron to another.
Activities of Daily Living

(ADL)
Dressing, eating, showers, toileting, walking.
Activity Limitations
Tasks that cannot be fully executed by a person with a disability.
Acute Care
Care provided in a hospital setting until the person is medically stable.
Adaptability
People’s capacity to change their behaviors in order to adapt to changes in their internal or external environment.
Adduction
Movement towards the mid-line of the body, in contrast to abduction, which is movement away from the mid-line of the body.
Adenosine Triphosphate

(ATP)
Transports chemical energy within cells to fuel metabolic processes.
Administrative Law
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.
Advocacy
The act of publicly supporting or speaking on behalf of a person, cause, action, legislation, etc.
Advocate
An individual or organization who serves on behalf of an individual.
Affect
Feeling or emotion.
Afferent
Tracts of nerves that send information toward the central nervous system.
Agitation
The unpleasant state of high excitement leaving a person feeling confused, nervous, tense, etc.
Agnosia
The lack of awareness of sensations and the inability to recognize objects. Agnosias can be specific to color, familiar faces or general objects.
Agonist
A chemical that binds to a receptor, activating it to produce a biological response.
Air Evacuation

(AE)
A sophisticated medical evacuation system, transporting injured service members via air transport to appropriate levels of care.
Airborne Pathogens
Infectious microbes small enough to be transmitted from person to person when an infected individual coughs, sneezes, or laughs.
Akinesia
Slowness or loss of voluntary movement; often a result of damage to the basal ganglia.
Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)
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.
Alcohol, Smoking and Substance-use Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)
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).
Allied Health Professionals
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.
Allodynia
A type of pain that is triggered by a stimulus from something that would not normally provoke pain.
Allogeneic
Derived from the same species, but genetically not identical (such as human bone or skin grafts).
Alteration in Mental State
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.
Alteration of Consciousness (AOC)
Reduction in arousal and responsiveness to stimuli as a result of a medical condition or trauma; may present as confusion, lethargy, obtundance (less than full alertness), or stupor; intracranial hemorrhage is one cause of AOC.

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The ability to shift between tasks that demand different behavioral or cognitive skills.
Alzheimer’s Disease

(AD)
The most common form of dementia; progressively worsens. The most common early symptom is short-term memory loss.
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
(AASM)
A professional organization dedicated to the subspecialty of sleep medicine and the treatment of sleep disorders.
American Association of Nurse Life Care Planners
(AANLCP)
A nonprofit professional organization for nurses who have become certified as life care planners.
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

(ACRM)
An interdisciplinary organization of rehabilitation professionals supporting research promoting health, independence, and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
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.
Amygdala
Part of the limbic system; closely tied with emotional memories and reactions, including aggressive responses and the fight-or-flight response.
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
A condition developed by some athletes with repetitive concussive injuries; involves degeneration of the brain and spinal cord.
Anhedonia
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).
Anorgasmia
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.
Anosognosia
Lack of awareness or denial of paralysis of a limb or of the limb itself.
Anoxia
The absence of oxygen supply to tissue or an organ; results in cell death.
Antecedent
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).
Antecedent-Based Behavior Model
An evidence-based behavior modification practice.
Anterior
Front.
Anterior and Posterior Spinocerebellar Tracts
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
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.
Anterior Cord Syndrome
A common spinal cord syndrome; marked by a loss of muscle control, pain, and temperature sensation, but without loss of proprioception and touch sensation.
Anterior Corticospinal Tract
Efferent nerve bundle located in the ventral-medial cord; carries impulses from the motor cortex to muscles and organs.
Anterior Longitudinal Ligament
Ligament connecting the spinal column; runs in front of the vertebral bodies.
Anterior Spinal Artery
A large artery that is fed mainly from the aorta; runs anterior to the spinal cord and provides blood supply to it.
Anterograde Amnesia
Inability to create new memories following the event that caused the amnesia.
Anti-Cholinergic
A class of drugs that block the action of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine in the CNS and peripheral nervous system.
Anxiety
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.

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Apathy
A lack of concern, feeling, or emotion; general disinterest. A symptom of major depression.
Aphasia
Loss of ability to understand (receptive) or produce (expressive) language.

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Apneic
Not breathing for a short time.
APOEe4
The genetic allele associated with increased risk for Alzheimer’s Disease.
Apoptosis
A naturally occurring process that involves a controlled sequence of steps that tell a cell to terminate itself; cell death.
App
An electronic application designed to operate on smart phones, tablets, and other mobile devices.
Appropriate Auxiliary Aids and Services
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
Inability to perform purposive actions due to damage in certain areas of the brain.
Apraxia of Speech
An oral motor speech disorder in which a person cannot translate what they want to say into motor plans to initiate speech.
Arachidonic Acid Cascade
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.
Arachnoid Mater
The spider web-like middle layer of the meninges.
Areflexic Bowel
Decreased reflex control of the anal sphincter due to damage to nerves that exit the lumbar or sacral areas of the spinal cord.
Arousal
The state of high alertness either physically or mentally.
Arteries
Blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart.
Arterio-Ventricular Block
Impairment of conduction between the atrium and ventricles of the heart muscle.
Articulation
A juncture between bones or cartilages.
Ascending Reticular Activating System (ARAS)
Part of the reticular activating system, which is a set of connected nuclei in the brain responsible for regulating arousal and sleep-wake transitions.
Assimilation
Complete adaptation to a host society, taking on the values of that society, and rejecting one’s original values.
Assistive Technology for Cognition (ATC)
Low-tech systems (e.g., calendars, Post-it notes, clocks, timers), high-tech mainstream devices (e.g., smart phones, 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.
Astrocytes
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.
Ataxia
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).
Athetoid Movements
Slow, involuntary writhing movements of the hands, feet, fingers, and toes; usually caused by lesions to the brain.
Atlanto-Occipital Joint
Where the first cervical vertebra connects to the head at the base of the skull.
The first cervical vertebra; supports the skull.
Atrophy
Weakness or wasting away of muscles due to disuse.
Attention Process Training Program

(APT3)
A neurorehabilitative program developed by Sohlberg and Mateer featuring attention exercises for people with mild-to-severe attention deficits secondary to acquired brain injuries.
Auditory Cortex
The part of the brain, located in the temporal lobes, which processes auditory information.
Auditory Stimuli
A sound stimulus produced to determine the ability to hear and understand.
Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metric (ANAM)
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.
Autonomic Dysfunction Syndrome
A problem with the autonomic nervous system that controls processes such as digestion, heart rate, the immune system and more.
Autonomic Dysregulation
Involuntary, automatic changes in body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing caused by a malfunctioning of the autonomic nervous system.
Avoidance
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.
Avolition
A lack of motivation or initiative.
Awareness
A state in which a person is conscious of the environment around them.
Horizontal plane.
Axis
The second vertebra; allows for movement of the head on the horizontal plane.
Axis I Disorders
This diagnosis refers to clinical disorders such as depression, anxiety, phobias, etc.
Axis II Disorders
This diagnosis refers to personality disorders and intellectual disabilities; some diagnoses include Antisocial Personality Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder.
Long extension of a neuron which sends signals electrochemically from one neuron to another.
Axonal Shearing
A condition of damage to axons, as a result of being twisted and disconnected in a violent agitating motion.
Ballisms
A movement disorder characterized by quick, flailing movements.
Barrow Neurological Institute Fatigue Scale
(BNI Fatigue Scale)
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.
Basal Ganglia
Coordinates physical movements by relaying information from the cerebral cortex to the brain stem and cerebellum.
Baseline
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.)
Beck Anxiety Inventory
(BAI)
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.


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Beck Depression Inventory
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/
Benchmarking
The process of measuring one agency or organization’s performance metrics against others designated as leaders in the same industry.
Medical staff discomfort or inexperience in treating certain patients or conditions (without intended malice).
Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV)
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.
Best Practices
Methods that have reliably shown results superior to those achieved by other means.
Binocular Vision
How the eyes are working together; deficits in this area can result in double vision.
Biopsychosocial Model
A model of human behavior that takes into consideration biological, cognitive-affective, social interpersonal, and cultural factors and social institutions.
Bipolar Affective Disorder
A psychiatric condition in which people vacillate between states of mania and depression.
Bipolar I
Diagnosed upon the presence of one or more manic episodes.
Bipolar II
Characterized by one or more depressive episodes followed by one or more hypomanic episodes.
Bisacodyl Suppository
A stimulant laxative administered through the rectum frequently used for management of neurogenic bowel dysfunction.
Blast Injury
(or blast-induced neurotrauma)
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.
Blast Plus (+)
Injury mechanism resulting from a combination of blast and blunt traumatic mechanisms.
Blood-Brain Barrier
Protective system ensuring that, at the vascular level, harmful substances cannot pass through the membrane to harm the brain.
Body Image
A subjective view of one’s own body.
Bradycardia
Very slow heart rate.
Bradykinin
A peptide that causes blood vessels to enlarge; thus causing a fall in blood pressure.
Brain Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM)
An abnormal connection between arteries and veins; usually a congenital defect.
Brain Hypothesis
The brain is responsible for all behaviors and the overall conscious experience of the organism.
Brain Injury Association of America
(BIAA)
A national organization with state affiliates that advocates for the needs of individuals with brain injury.
Brain Injury Family Intervention (BIFI)
An intervention intended to enhance family functioning by improving family member psychological well-being, life satisfaction, and access to services.
Brain Injury Family Intervention-Adolescents

(BIFI-A)
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 Injury
Interdisciplinary Special
Interest Group
(BI-ISIG)
An interdisciplinary subgroup of rehabilitation professionals who are members of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM).
Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor
(BDNF)
A protein in the neurotrophin family of growth factors that promotes neurogenesis.
The posterior part of the brain, made up of three structures
Broca’s Area
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.
Brown-Sequard Syndrome
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.
CAGE
A well-validated four-question scheme to screen for potential alcoholism. Useful for adults, but not for adolescents.
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
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.
Care Management
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
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.
Case Management Society of America (CMSA)
A nonprofit association that focuses on the support and development of case managers as a profession.
Cataplexy
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.
Catatonia
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.
Categorization Program
A neurorehabilitative program developed by Dr. Constantinidou of the Center for Applied Neuroscience, University of Cypress.
Catheter
A tube that can be inserted into a body cavity, duct, or vessel.
Cauda Equina
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).
Causal
Relating to, constituting, or implying a cause.
Causes of Fatigue Questionnaire

(COF)
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.
Ceiling Effect
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.
Cell Body
The main part of a neuron.
Cellulitis
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.
Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale

(CESS-D)
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
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC)
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.
Central Cord Syndrome
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.
Central Nervous System

(CNS)
Made up of the brain and spinal cord combined.
Central Sensitization
The activation of higher order neurons from the central nervous system, amplifying the pain already experienced by an individual.
Central Sleep Apnea
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.
Cerebellum
Part of the brain involved in control of voluntary muscular movements.
Thin layer of gray matter covering the brain, primarily made up of cell bodies of neurons.
Cerebral Edema
Swelling of the brain.
Cerebral Vascular Accident
(CVA)
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).
Cerebrospinal Fluid

(CSF)
Fluid that bathes the brain and spinal cord.
Cerebrum
The largest part of the brain, consisting of two hemispheres.
Certified Life Care Planner

(CLCP)
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.
Certified Nurse Life Care Planner

(CNLCP)
Registered nurses with specific training in Life Care Planning who have met rigorous certification standards.
Cervical
Pertaining to the neck.
Cervicalgia
Simple neck pain; frequently associated with mTBI and, when not treated swiftly, commonly causes both headaches and chronic pain syndromes.
Charges
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.
Choreiform
An involuntary movement disorder characterized by continuous, rapid unpredictable movements.
Choroid Plexus
Brain structure where cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is created.
Chronic Headache
Headaches that occur at least 15 days per month for at least 3 months.
Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)
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.
Circadian Rhythm
Biological rhythm controlled by a biological clock, regulating bodily functions, including sleep.
Cisterns
Areas of separation of the pia mater and arachnoid mater that are filled with CSF.
Clinical Neuropsychology
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.
Recommendations for clinicians to provide care of specific conditions; often based on research and practice.
Clonic Jerks
Spasms frequently observed in seizures resulting in uncontrollable jerking; after the spasms stop, the person lets out a deep sigh and normal breathing resumes.
Clonus
Involuntary rhythmic muscular contractions and relaxations caused by lesions in upper motor neurons.
Closed Injuries
Injury to the brain resulting in brain lacerations, contusions, or intracerebral hemorrhage.
Clostridium Difficile
Infectious diarrhea caused by the bacterium C. difficile.
Coccyx
The tail bone.
Cochlea
The auditory portion of the inner ear; shaped like a snail.
Cognition
Conscious mental activity such as thinking, remembering, learning or using language.
Cognitive Distance
The presence of unequal, unrelated, or contrasting thoughts and understanding that frequently results in increased and excessive mental stress and discomfort.
Cognitive Rehabilitation
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.
Cognitive Skill Memory
Memory for procedures necessary to win a game or solve a problem.
Cognitive Training
Cognitive rehabilitation component that focuses on resolving the cognitive and functional deficits through the application of restorative approaches.
Coma
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.
Combat Stress
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).
Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
The accrediting body for rehabilitation centers in the United States.
Common Data Elements

(CDE)
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
Common Law
The body of laws developed from court decisions.
Community Enfranchisement
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.
Community Integrated Rehabilitation

(CIR)
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.
Co-morbid
The presence of one or more disorders or diseases occurring simultaneously.
Compensatory
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.
Compensatory Strategies
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.
The ability of an individual to make informed decisions about health care, legal and financial matters, etc.
Computed Tomography

(CT)
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.
Concomitant
Co-occurring.
Concussion
A mild TBI caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head; can potentially alter the way the brain works.
Confabulation
A memory disturbance in which fabricated or distorted memories are present, in the absence of intent to deceive.
Consequence

(C)
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

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Consequence-Based Interventions
These involve implementing a systematic intervention wherein the target behavior is followed by a specific kind of consequence.
Consequence-Based Programming
In rehabilitation, this term refers to interventions focused on learning.
Consolidation
The transfer of information from working memory to long-term memory.
Constitutional Law
The body of laws based on the United States Constitution, as well as the constitution of the state where the person lives.
Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy

(*CIMT*)
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.
Contingency
Something liable to happen as an adjunct to, or result of, something else.
Contractures
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.
Contralateral
On the opposite side of the body.
Contrecoup Effect
Impact injury resulting from the moving head striking a stationary object. Injury occurs at the side of the head opposite the point of impact.
Controlled Substances
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.
Conus Medullaris
The tapered, lower end of the spinal cord; usually in L1-L2 in adults.
CONUS
Continental United States.
Convergence
Insufficiency
A condition in which the eyes cannot focus effectively together, creating difficulty with reading, and triggering headaches.
Coping Hypothesis
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.
Corpus Callosum
A complex band of nerve fibers that exchanges information between the two hemispheres.
Cortices
Plural form of cortex.
Costo-Vertebral Junctions
Where the ribs and spine meet.
Coup Injury
Head injury resulting from impact of a moving object. Injury occurs at the site of impact.
CPAP
Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine, often recommended for patients with sleep apnea to improve oxygen intake during sleep.
CRAFFT
A screening measure designed for adolescents, assessing misuse of both alcohol and other drugs.
Craig Handicap Assessment and Reporting Technique (CHART)
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).

Craig Handicap Assessment and Reporting Technique Short Form
**(CHART SF)**
The CHART SF has 19 items that yield the same scores as the original CHART across the six domains.
Cranial Nerve
A nerve that descends directly from the brain or brainstem.
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.
Cranioplasty
A neurosurgical procedure during which the preserved bone flap or prosthetic bone is replaced after previous removal by means of a craniectomy.
Craniotomy
A surgical incision into the skull; frequently used prior to placement of a shunt or an intraventricular catheter.
Crepitus
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.
Crystallized Intelligence
The knowledge and skills accumulated over a lifetime.

Return to Word List
Culture
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.
Cyclothymia
A milder form of bipolar affective disorder in which the person has mood swings from high to low over a period of years.
DAVOS
The typical pattern of sexual expression.
Decerebration
Loss of cerebral brain function.
Deep Vein Thrombosis

(DVT)
A blood clot in any deep veinous part of the circulatory system.
Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center

(DVBIC)
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.
Delayed Ejaculation
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.

Return to Word List
Delayed Orgasm
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.
Dementia
A loss of brain function that occurs with certain diseases; may affect memory, thinking, language, judgment, and behavior.
Dendrites
Branching extensions of the neuron that receive information from axons.
Dens
An upward projection of the axis that inserts into the atlas.
Dentate Gyrus
Part of the hippocampus that formulates episodic memory; one of the areas of neurogenesis demonstrated in adult rats.
Department of Developmental Services

(DDS)
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.
Deployment
The movement of forces from one military theater to another.
Dermatitis
General term for inflammation of the skin.
Diabetes Insipidus
(DI)
Caused by problems related to antidiuretic hormone (ADH); causes frequent urination. Not related to diabetes mellitus.
Diagnostic Nerve Block
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.
Diaphoresis
Excessive sweating.
Diencephalon
Master relay center of the brain; forwards information, sensations, and movement.
Diffuse Axonal Injury
(DAI)
Brain injury occurring when the white matter tracts are stretched and broken, resulting in extensive, widespread damage.
Diffuse Injury
Widespread, not localized, damage in the brain.
Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI)
An MRI method that maps the diffusion of molecules, primarily water, in a person’s body non-invasively.
Digital Stimulation
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.
Dilation
Widening or opening
(e.g., dilation of the pupil of the eye, widening of the cervix in childbirth, etc.).
Diplopia
Double vision.
Disability Rating Scale

(DRS)
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.
Discrimination
(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.
Discriminative Stimulus

(SD)
An event or stimulus that precedes a response and sets the occasion for the behavior to occur; part of the four-term contingency.
Discs
Cartilaginous cushions between bones; found in between vertebral bodies.
Disinhibition
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.
Disorder(s) of Consciousness
A state of impaired consciousness as a result of an injury to the brain.

Return to Word List
Diversity
Differences beyond race, ethnicity, and nationality, such as sexual orientations, religions, and abilities.
Divided Attention
The ability to respond simultaneously to multiple task demands while maintaining speed and accuracy.
Domestic Violence
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).
Dopamine
A neurotransmitter that helps control the brain’s reward and pleasure centers and regulates movement and emotional responses.
Dose-Dependent Effect
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.
Dose-Response Study
An experimental study investigating the change in effect on an organism following exposure to increasing or decreasing levels of a substance or a stressor.
Dual Diagnosis
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.
Dualism
Descartes’ understanding of mind and body, being made of two different substances and operating in cooperation with each other.
Dura Mater
Outer layer of the meninges (hard matter).
Durable
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).
Duty to Warn
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.
Dyad(ic)
Being a group of two.
Dysarthria
Muscle weakness affecting speech production.
Dysarthric Speech
Difficulty producing speech due to weakness, paralysis, or lack of coordination of the motor-speech system, secondary to neurological injury.
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.
Dyscontrol
The inability to control one’s behavior.
Dyslipidemia
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).
Dysmenorrhea
Painful menstrual periods that interfere with daily activities.
Dyspareunia
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.
Dysphagia
Problems with swallowing.
Dystonia
The involuntary contraction of muscles causing uncontrollable movements of the particular muscle.
Early Post-Traumatic Seizures
(EPTS)
Seizures that occur within the first week following the brain injury; may result from primary direct effects of the trauma.
Echoic
Relating to the sense of hearing.
Edema
Fluid build-up in legs or arms; a synonym for swelling.
Education about cognitive weaknesses and strengths
Cognitive rehabilitation component that focuses on developing a patient’s awareness of cognitive and functional deficits.
EEG
Electroencephalography; a recording of electrical activity in the brain via scalp electrodes or other leads.
Efferent
Tracts of nerves that receive information.
Efficacy
The ability to produce a desired result.
Eighth Cranial Nerve

(Acoustic Nerve)
Transmits sound and equilibrium from the inner ear to the brain (also known as the vestibulocochlear nerve).
Elopement
Leaving a safe place or safe premises (the term is used in relation to a person with a cognitive or mental disorder).
Emergent Awareness
The ability to recognize a problem (or deficit) as it occurs.
Emotional Intelligence
The ability to monitor and identify emotions, both one’s own and others’; and to use emotional information to guide thinking and behavior.
Encoding
Storage of information into memory, much like writing data to a computer disk.
EOD
Explosive Ordinance Device.
Epidural Hematoma
Accumulation of blood on the surface of the meninges.
Episodic Memory
Autobiographical recollections of experiences.
Epley Maneuver
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.
Epworth Sleepiness Scale
An assessment tool that measures daytime sleepiness.

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Erectile Dysfunction (ED)
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.
Establishing Operation (E.O.)
Any variable that temporarily alters the effectiveness of some stimulus or event as a reinforcer; part of the four-term contingency.
A female hormone.
Ethnicity
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.
European Federation of Neurological Societies
A professional organization that unites and supports neurologists throughout Europe.
Exacerbate
To make worse.
Examiner Bias
A subjective bias that can lead to a result expected by the experimenter (or interviewer).
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.
Excitotoxicity
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.
Excoriation
To abrade, damage or remove the skin.
Cognitive functions including planning, reasoning, judgment, initiation, and abstract thinking.
Exertional Testing
Brief period of exercise followed by assessment of symptoms and cognition; used in the return-to-duty evaluation in acute concussion assessment.
Exogenous
Relating to external factors; from outside the system or organism.
Experimental Neuropsychology
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.
Explicit Memory
Information that can be consciously declared.
Exploitation
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.

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Expressive Language
The ability to put thoughts into words and sentences in a way that makes sense and is grammatically accurate.
Extended Glasgow Outcome Scale

(GOS-E)
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
Extenders
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).

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Extensor Muscle
Bends away from the body.
Extinction Burst
Initial increase in rate, intensity and/or change in topography.
Extinction
The process of eliminating or reducing a conditioned response by not reinforcing it.
Facets
Joints; vertebral junctions.
Fading
The gradual elimination of overt reinforcement for desired behavior.
Family Needs Questionnaire
(FNQ)
A questionnaire listing needs commonly shared by family members in six domains
Family Systems Theory
(FST)
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).
Fasciculus Cuneatus and Faniculus Gracilis
Afferent nerve tracts that lie in the dorsal-medial aspect of the spinal cord and transmit joint and muscle sensation to the brain.
Fatigue
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.
Fatigue Severity Scale
(FSS)
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.
Federal Poverty Level
(FPL)
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.
Filum Terminale
Slender, elongated thread of connective tissue from the conus medullaris to the back of the coccyx.
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.

http://tbims.org/combi/FIM/index.html
Fine Motor Control
Manual dexterity.
Fissure
Groove, natural division, deep furrow.
Fixation
Eyes holding gaze steady on a target.
Fixed Battery
An approach to neuropsychological assessment that involves an inflexible battery of co-normed neuropsychological tests that thoroughly cover every functional domain.
Flashbacks
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.
Flexible Battery
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.
Flexor Muscle
Bends toward the body.
Floor Effect
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.
Focal Injury
Occurring in a particular spot in the brain.
Focal Seizures
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.
Focused Attention
Focusing on one source of information while withholding responses to irrelevant stimuli.
Foley Catheter
A flexible tube passed through the urethra to the bladder to drain urine; the most common form of indwelling catheter.
Foot Drop Deformities
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.
The large opening at the base of the skull through which the spinal cord passes and is connected to the brain.
Foramen of Magendie
Median aperture through which cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) flows and circulates in the ventricles of the brain.
Four-term Contingency
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).
Frasier Free Water Protocol
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.
Frontal Poles
The anterior end of the cerebral hemispheres.
Frontal Release
A syndrome resulting from damage to the frontal areas of the brain; characterized by disinhibition and abnormal behaviors.
Frontal, Parietal, Temporal and Occipital Lobes
Four main areas of the cerebrum.
Functional Activities Training
Cognitive rehabilitation component that focuses on real-world improvements in daily functioning.
Functional Analysis
or Functional Assessment
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.
Functional Assessment Measure (FAM)
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 Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plan
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).

Return to Word List
Functional Systems Model
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.
Functional
Relating to function, specifically activities and occupations of daily life.
Functionally Equivalent Alternative
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.
GABA
Gamma Amino Butyric Acid; the primary inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system.
Gag Reflex
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.

Return to Word List
Gait
A person’s manner of walking.
Galveston Orientation and Amnesia Test

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

Available at http://scale-library.com/pdf/Galveston_Orientation_Amnesia_Test.pdf
Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

(GERD)
When stomach contents flow back up into the esophagus.
Gastrostomy
An incision in the abdominal wall for the purposes of a feeding tube that passes through directly into the stomach.
Gender
The state of being male or female.
Gender Role
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.
Generalizability
Applying a learned skill to a similar task.
Generalization
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.
Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale

(GAD-7)
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
Generalized Anxiety Disorder
A psychiatric disorder characterized by a pattern of constant worry and anxiety over life situations and events.
Genitourinary
The urinary system and reproductive organs.
Glasgow Coma Scale

(GCS)
A neurologic assessment scale to objectively measure level of consciousness following head injury.
Glasgow Outcome Scale

(GOS)
A brief 1-item descriptive outcome measure with five possible categories

Return to Word List
Glial Cells
Non-communicating cells that support and nourish the neurons.
Gliosis
Changes in glial cells due to damage.
Global Fatigue Index

(GFI)
Derived from 15 of 16 items of the Multidimensional Assessment of Fatigue (MAF).
Glutamate
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.
Gray Matter
Found in the brain and spinal cord; primarily composed of neurons (also known as gray matter).

Return to Word List
Growth Hormone Deficiency (GHD)
An injury-related neuroendocrine abnormality thought to be associated with fatigue. GHD is a common occurrence following TBI.
G-tube
A gastrostomy tube that delivers nutrition directly into the stomach.
Guardian of the Estate
Cares for the property of the ward.
Guardian of the Person
Cares for the personal needs of the ward.
Guardianship
A legally enforceable arrangement under which one person (the guardian) has the legal right and duty to care for another (the ward).
Gustatory
Relating to the sense of taste.
Gyri
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.
Habilitative Services
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).
Habituation
Diminished physiological or psychological response to repeated stimuli.
Haptic
Relating to the sense of touch.
Hazardous Use
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.
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
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.
Heimlich Maneuver
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.
Hematoma
A discrete collection of blood, usually clotted, caused by a broken vessel (bruising).
Hematuria
Blood in the urine.
Weakness on one side of the body; less severe than hemiplegia (total paralysis of one side of the body).
Hemiplegia
Complete paralysis of one side of the body.
Heterosexism
An ideological system that denies, denigrates, and stigmatizes any non-heterosexual form of behavior or lifestyle.
Heterotopic Ossification (HO)
The development of new bone formation in soft tissue planes surrounding neurologically affected joints.
System in which items or people are ranked according to their importance.
High-Risk Drinking
The amount of alcohol use considered to be unhealthy.
HIPAA
See Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.
Hippocampal Atrophy
Brain damage associated with trauma, oxygen deprivation, encephalitis, long-term stress, and neurological disorders.
Part of the limbic system; most commonly associated with memory functioning.
Histamine
A biologically active substance that plays a major role in immune response, such as allergic reactions.
Home-Grown Measures
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.
Homophobia
An explicitly negative or hostile attitude toward non-heterosexual people.
Horizontal Communication
Communication between two partners while in bed.
Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale

(HADS)
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
Hydrocephalus
Ex-Vacuo
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.
Hydrocephalus
Abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the ventricles of the brain (also called water on the brain).
Hydrops
Excessive accumulation of fluid in tissues or body cavities.
Hypercretin
Otherwise known as orexin, this is a neurotransmitter that regulates arousal, wakefulness, and appetite.
Hyperphagia
Excessive hunger and increased appetite.
Hyperreflexia
The involuntary increase in muscle tone and exaggerated deep tendon reflexes; overactive or over-responsive reflexes.
Hypersexuality
Increased sexual arousal and drive.
Hypertension
High blood pressure.
Hyperthermia
Condition in which the body overheats.
Hyperthermic
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.
Hypertonicity
Excessive tension in muscles, also called spasticity.
Hypervigilance
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).
Hypnagogic Hallucinations
Vivid dream-like auditory, visual, or tactile sensations one experiences in the transition between sleep and wakefulness.
Hypopituitarism
A disorder in which the pituitary fails to produce enough hormones (or ceases producing them at all).
Hypothalamic-Pituitary Axis
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.
Hypothalamus
The brain structure that controls hunger, thirst, sexual response, endocrine levels, and temperature regulation.
Hypoxia
Decrease in the amount of oxygen getting to the brain; may result in cell death.
latrogenic
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).
Iconic
Relating to the visual sense.
IFSP
(Individual Family Service Plan)
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.
Hip bones (plural of ilium).
Immediate Post-Traumatic Convulsions

(IPTC)
Seizures that involve loss of consciousness and involuntary movements within seconds of impact; usually associated with facial trauma or head injury with significant force.
Immuno-Suppression
The reduction in efficacy of the immune system; can be caused by certain diseases (e.g., HIV, lymphoma) or specific drugs.
Impaction
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.
Implicit Memory
Procedural memory or cognitive skill memory.
In Vivo
Occurring within a living organism (a biological term).

Return to Word List
Incidence
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.
Incompetent
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.
Incontinence
Loss of voluntary control of bladder (urinary incontinence) or bowel (fecal incontinence).
Individual Education Plan (IEP)
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.
Individual Educational Evaluation

(IEE)
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).

Return to Word List
Individual Health Care Plan

(IHCP)
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.
Individual Transition Plan (ITP)
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.
Individualized
Adapted to the needs or special circumstances of an individual.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
(IDEA)
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.
Induration
A hardening of the soft tissues of the body, usually caused by an increase in fibrous elements frequently associated with inflammation.
In-Dwelling Devices
Medical devices inserted into the body for long-term temporary or permanent use (such as catheters or feeding tubes).
Infection
The invasion of body tissues by disease-causing microorganisms. Signs of inflection include redness, warmth to touch, drainage from the site, and fever.
Inferior
Below; underneath.
Inflammation
A biological response of vascular tissue to damage or harmful stimuli.

Return to Word List
Inflicted Traumatic Brain Injury (iTBI)
A traumatic brain injury resulting from a non-accidental injury.
Informed Consent
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.
Injury Severity Score

(ISS)
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/
Innervate
To supply an organ (or other body part) with nerves.
Insertion Point
Where muscle connects to bone.
Insomnia
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.
Instrument
A measuring device for determining the present value of a quantity under observation.
Integration
The stage or status in which a child, adolescent, or adult sees the benefits of embracing both races and ethnicities.
Integumentary System
Skin.
Intensity
A term used in behavioral psychology to describe a description or measure of force.
Interlimb Coordination
The movement of one limb combined with the movement of another limb (e.g., crawling).
Internal Rotation
A movement turning a body part in toward the center of the body; for example, pulling the arm in to the body.
International Academy of Life Care Planners
(IALCP)
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.
International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

(ICF)
A classification tool to measure both health and disability of individuals and populations; published by the World Health Organization.
International Classification of Headache Disorders

(ICHD)
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.
International Commission on Health Care Certification

(ICHCC)
A credentialing body that awards certifications to qualified professionals in life care planning, disability evaluation rating, Medicare Set Aside allocations.
International Headache Society
(IHS)
A membership organization for professionals working with people who suffer from chronic headaches.

Return to Word List
Interpersonal Dynamics
The patterns of behavior between two or more individuals that affect emotion and behavior.
Interpersonal Intelligence
The ability to relate to, understand, and effectively interact with others.
Interpersonal Violence
Violence or abuse that occurs between two or more people who know each other.
Intracortical Microstimulation

(ICMS)
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.
Intracranial Pressure

(ICP)
Pressure inside the skull from the brain and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Pressure may vary due to production and absorption of CSF following injury.
Intracranial Pressure Monitoring
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.
Intrapersonal Intelligence
The ability for self-reflection, introspection, ethical awareness, and self-regulation.
Intrathecal Baclofen

(ITB)
An injection of baclofen into the subarachnoid space in the spinal canal.
Intrusion
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).

Return to Word List
Intubate
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).
Ipsilateral
On the same side of the body.
Ischemia
Lack of oxygen due to a restriction of blood flow.
Ischium
The curved bone at the base of the pelvis (the bones upon which one sits).
Jejunostomy
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).
JFK Coma Recovery Scale – Revised

(JFK CRS-R)
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.

Job Coach
A person who helps one attain career and employment goals; also known as an employment specialist.
Joining
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.
Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations

(JCAHO)
The accrediting body for hospitals in the United States. Now known as the Joint Commission.

Return to Word List
Korsakoff’s Dementia
A neurological disorder caused by a deficiency of thiamine (vitamin B1) in the brain; linked to alcoholism.
Labile
Easily or continually changing.
Lability
Emotional instability; rapidly changing emotions.
Lamina
Part of the vertebra, extending dorsally and medially from the pedicles, forming the vertebral arch.
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

(LRMC)
A medical center in Germany that accepts all evacuations from the battlefield.
Late post-Traumatic Seizures

(LPTS)
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.
Latency Period
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).
Latency
The time between the stimulus and the response.
Lateral Corticospinal Tract
Efferent nerve bundle located in the lateral, slightly dorsal, aspect of the spinal cord; sends impulses to control muscles and other organs as well.
Lateral
Side.

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Lateropulsion
Tendency to fall to one side.
Lesion Studies
A scientific field of study of human patients or animals with deficits following brain damage.
Level of Cognitive Functioning Scale (LCFS)
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
LGBT
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals (or community).
Life Care Plan

(LCP)
A lifelong needs assessment of the needed goods and services required for a person with brain injury to live the most independent life possible.
Ligaments
Fibrous connective tissue lashing muscles to bones.
Ligamentum Flavum
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).
Likert Scale
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).
Limbic System
Part of the brain involved in emotions and basic feelings.
Lissauer’s Tract
Afferent ventral-lateral nerve tracts that carry sensations of pain and temperature.
Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

(Advance Directive) and

(Medical Power of Attorney or Health Care Proxy)
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.
Localization of Brain Function
The brain consists of different organs and specialized areas that control different functions.
Localize
To turn the head in the direction of some form of stimulus.
Locomotor Training
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.
Longitudinal Health Assessments
Multiple assessments of a health condition across time.

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Long-term Memory
Permanent consolidation and storage of information, often lasting a lifetime.
Long-term Potentiation (LTP)
In neuroscientific research, LTP refers to a long-lasting signal that occurs between two neurons when they are stimulated simultaneously.
Loss of Consciousness

(LOC)
Temporary altered state, unlike sleep, when a person is unresponsive to stimuli; usually due to trauma, stroke, or other injury.
Lost Productivity
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.
Lumbar
Pertaining to the low back region.
Lumbralization
The term used if the sacrum incorporates an extra disc, creating a sixth lumbar vertebra.
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
MACE
(Military Acute Concussion Evaluation)
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.
Maceration
The softening of the skin due to prolonged exposure to fluid.
Magnesium

(Mg\(^{2+}\))
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.
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
A technique that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images of the organs and tissues within the body.

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Major Depressive Episode
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.
Manic Episode

(Mania)
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.
Marital Satisfaction
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.
Marital Stability
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.
Masticatory
Referring to mastication (chewing).
Mayo-Portland Adaptability Inventory (MPAI)
A clinical evaluation tool designed for use in post-acute care for brain injury rehabilitation.

For more information, visit www.tbims.org/combi/mpai
McMaster Family Assessment Device (MFAD)
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.

Available at
Measurement
A test or assessment.
Medical discharge resulting from injury or illness, granted by the Medical Evaluation Board.

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MEDEVAC
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).
Medicaid
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.
Medicare
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 Set Aside
(MSA)
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.

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Private insurance plans, often called “Medigap” policies, sold by commercial insurance companies to individuals to provide additional protection beyond what is covered under Medicare.
Medulla
Controls many involuntary functions such as breathing, heart rate, blood pressure, swallowing, vomiting, and sneezing.
Meniere’s Disease
A disease of unknown origin, characterized by intermittent attacks or tinnitus or vertigo.

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Membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord.
Meningitis
An infection resulting from a virus or bacteria entering the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal column.
Metabolic Alterations
Adverse chemical changes in the brain following head injury.
Metabolic Distress
A condition following injury in which the body becomes overwhelmed and cannot respond properly.
Metabolic Syndrome
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.
Metabolism
The chemical processes by which living things use resources such as food and water to grow, heal injuries and make energy.
Metacognition
Self-awareness and knowledge of one’s strengths and weaknesses.
Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)
A bacterium that is resistant to certain types of antibiotics; often found in medical facilities; and life-threatening in certain conditions.
Midbrain
Plays a pivotal role in alertness and arousal.
Mild Brain Injury

(mBI)
Injury to the brain, with Glasgow Coma Scores (GCS) between 13-15.
Mild Traumatic Brain Injury  
(mTBI)
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.
Milieu
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 Occupational Specialty
(MOS)
A service member’s job within the military.
Military Theater
Battlefield.
Minimal Clinically Important Differences (MCID)
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.
Minimally Conscious State
A condition of altered consciousness where the person displays some acknowledgment of self or environment.
Moderate TBI
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.
Modified Barium Swallow Study/Test
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.
Monism
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).
Morbidity
A condition or state of disease.
Morris Water Maze

(MWM)
An experimental testing apparatus used in behavioral neuroscience investigating memory and learning.
Mortality
Likelihood of death.
Motivational Interviewing
A method used in counseling to engage intrinsic motivation from within the client toward behavior change.
Motor Learning
Learning new motor skills.
Multicultural Psychology
The systematic study of behavior, cognition, and affect in many different cultures.
Multiculturalism
A social-intellectual movement promoting cultural diversity as a core principle while insisting on equality and respect of all cultural groups.
Multidimensional Assessment of Fatigue (MAF)
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.
Multiple Sleep Latency Test

(MLST)
The standard tool to test for narcolepsy and idiopathic insomnia; also known as the daytime nap test.
Myoclonic Jerks
Brief, involuntary twitching of muscles (repetitive spasms).
Myotendinous Lengthening
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.

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Narcolepsy
Excessive sleepiness caused by an inhibition of the brain’s ability to regulate sleep/wake cycles; typically is associated with cataplexy and hypnagogic hallucinations.
National Disability Rights Network
A nonprofit organization for protection and advocacy systems, providing technical assistance, advocacy, and legal support.
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
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.
National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

(NIDRR)
See National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)
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).
National Institutes of Health
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.
Natural Selection
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.
Near Transfer
Transfer of skills gained in one activity being utilized in a related activity.
Necrosis
Cell death and loss of cells.
Neglect
Failure to provide for the basic needs of a dependent individual.
Nerve Tracts
A neural pathway connecting one part of the nervous system with another.
Neurobehavioral Symptom Inventory (NSI)
A clinical tool that assesses symptoms based on self-report of the person with suspected TBI.
Neurobehavorial
Of or relating to the relationship between the action of the nervous system and behavior.
Neurogenesis
The formation of new neurons.
Neurogenic Bladder
A secondary condition caused when a TBI affects the cerebral structures controlling bladder storage and emptying functions.
Neuroma
Abnormalities that develop when the nerve becomes entrapped in scar tissue.
Neurons
Nerve cells that communicate to other neurons.
Neuropathic Pain
Pain associated with primary lesion of dysfunction of the nervous system.
Neuropathy
Damage or disease affecting peripheral nerves, impairing sensation and movement; often causing pain or weakness.
Neuroplasticity
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.

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Neuroprostheses
Devices that provide a substitute for motor, sensory, or cognitive function damaged by disease or injury (e.g. a cochlear implant).
Neuroprotection
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.
Neuropsychiatry
A branch of medicine concerned with clinical disorders caused by brain injury or diseases of the brain; a subspecialty of psychiatry.
Neuropsychological Testing
Tests that are administered in order to determine deficits following injuries such as TBI.
Neuropsychology
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.
Neurorehabilitation
An emerging field of practice that attempts to balance the relationship between preventing neurodegeneration and enhancing the potential for neuroplasticity.
Neurotransmitters
Chemical messengers used by neurons to communicate to one another.
Neutral Monism
The theory that mind and body are two different ways of describing the same entity.
Nicotinamide
A soluble B vitamin (Vitamin B3) that has been successfully tested in preclinical models of TBI to improve functional recovery following injury.
No Child Left Behind Act
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.
Nocioception
The process in which the neurological system processes noxious stimuli as initiated by the pain receptors, or nociceptors.
Non-Native Apps
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.
Non-Traumatic Brain Injury
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.
Nonverbal
Communicating (or not communicating) without the use of words.

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Nonvocal
Not utilizing words or unable to produce speech.

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Normalizing
The process of letting families know that their concerns and experiences are both valid and typical given their situation—that they are not abnormal.
Norming
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.
Represent a range of typical performance on a neuropsychological test in a healthy population or reference group.
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (such as aspirin, ibuprofen, and naproxen).
Nuclei
Plural of nucleus, the part of a cell that is the essential agent for growth, metabolism, and reproduction.
Nystagmus
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).
Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder

(OCD)
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 or Non-Communicating Hydrocephalus
Obstruction of the flow of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) around the brain following trauma.
Obstructive Sleep Apnea
When throat muscles close during sleep and obstruct the airway; the most common form of sleep apnea.
Occipital Neuralgia
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.
Occlusion
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).
Occupational Therapy

(OT)
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.
Olfactory
Relating to the sense of smell.
Olmstead Decision
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.
Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
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 Injury
Injury to the head in which there is a breach of the skull or a breach of the meninges.
Open-Ended Questioning
The use of questions that require the person to give more than just a single-word or yes-or-no answer.
Operational Definition
A clear and concise definition of an item (quantity, behavior, etc.) that can be measured.
Operationalization
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.
Ophthalmoplectic Migraine
A variant of migraine, caused by inflammatory cranial neuropathy.
Opioids
A category of narcotic pain medications derived from the opium poppy.
Optic Chiasm
The part of the brain where the optic nerves cross; located immediately below the hypothalamus.
Orbit
The concave cavity in the skull that protects the eyeball (also known as an eye socket).
Organ of Corti
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.
Organic Personality Syndrome
A psychiatric disorder characterized by short or long-term personality disturbance attributed to a brain dysfunction, injury, or disease.
Orientation Log

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

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

Return to Word List
Using the lips, jaw, tongue, and teeth. Signs of oromotor dysfunctions include drooling and difficulty swallowing, feeding, or speaking.
An orthopedic or mechanical device to assist or support movement in the body (i.e., braces for the legs).
Orthostatic Hypotension
When a person’s blood pressure drops quickly upon standing; known colloquially as head rush or dizzy spell.

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Orthotist
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.
Oscillopsia
Visual disturbance in which objects in the visual field give the appearance of oscillating (moving back-and-forth or up-and-down).
Osmolarity
The concentration of an osmotic solution. Measured in osmols.
Osteoporosis
A disease characterized by fragile, porous bones.
Other Health Impaired
(OHI)
(Educational Definition)
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.

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An intervention path frequently employed by healthcare professionals addressing sexual intimacy (the initials stand for Permission [Affirmation], Limited Information, Specific Suggestions, Intensive Therapy).
Post-acute brain injury rehabilitation.
Palpation
Using one’s hands to examine the body.
Panic Disorder
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.
Para-transit
A service provided to individuals who are not able to use the regular transit system independently (because of a physical or mental impairment).
Paraverbal Behavior
Tone of voice, cadence of speech, volume, and pacing of verbal communication.
Parenteral
Not delivered through the intestinal tract (e.g., fluids delivered intravenously).
Paresis
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.
Parkinsonism
A neurological disorder characterized by tremors, rigidity, hypokinesia, and being unstable on one’s feet.
Paroxysmal autonomic dysreflexia (AD)
also known as autonomic hyperreflexia, neurostorming or sympathetic storming
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.
Paroxysmal Autonomic Instability with Dystonia
A syndrome of intermittent agitation, diaphoresis, hypothermia, hypertension, tachycardia, tachypnea, and extensor posturing; a risk factor for increased morbidity after brain injury.
Participation
Involvement in life situations and also the term currently used to describe engagement in social roles; previously called community integration.
Participation Assessment with Recombined Tools-Objective (PART-O)
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
Participation Restriction
Lack of full engagement in a life situation.
Pathogen
Something, such as a virus or bacterium, that causes disease.
Pathophysiological
The physiology of disordered function.
Patient Health Questionnaire

(PHQ-9)
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
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

(PPACA)
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.
Pediatric Test of Brain Injury

(PTBI)
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

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Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury Checklist
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


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Pedicles
Stalk-like support on each side of the neural arch of a vertebral body.
Pelvic Girdle
Term that refers collectively to the pubis, ischium, sacrum, and ilia.
Penetrating Brain Injury
Any injury that involves the penetration of a foreign object, munitions fragment, bone chip, etc., through the dura mater.
Perfuse
To cause to spread or flow.
Perilymphatic Fistula
A tear in the membrane (the oval window of the ear), such that the perilymph from the inner ear leaks into the middle ear.
Perimenopause
The period of time in which a woman’s body prepares to make its natural transition toward permanent infertility.
Perineal
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.
Periodic Limb Movement Disorder
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.
Peripheral Nervous Systems (PNS)
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.
Peripheral Nocioception
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.
Persistent Post-Concussive Symptoms (PPCS)
A complex disorder following a concussion, lasting for weeks or months, consisting of symptoms such as headaches or dizziness.
Personal Protective Equipment
Gloves, gowns, masks and eye protection for medical personnel based on the risk of exposure to bodily fluids associated with the procedure.
Personality Disorders
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).
Phantom Limb
A phenomenon, following amputation of a limb, in which the patient has the sensation that the extremity is still there.
Pharmacologic Neuromodulation
The use of medicine for the electrical stimulation of nerves.
Photophobia
Discomfort or pain in the eyes due to exposure to light.
Phrenology
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.
Physiatrist
A medical doctor who specializes in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (also called PM&R physicians).
Physical Management
Range of motion, orthotic use, positioning to keep the muscles and ligaments functional.
Physical Therapy

(PT)
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.
Pia Mater
The innermost layer of the meninges.
Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index
An assessment tool that measures daytime sleepiness.
Plantar Sensation
Sensation on the soles of the foot.
Plasticity
A change in the expression of genes or proteins; can be observed with electrophysiological measures as changes in signaling between neurons.
Plenary Guardianship
Cares for personal needs and the property of the ward. A court may appoint plenary guardianship only upon a finding of incompetency.
Polycystic Ovarian Symptoms
Infertility due to anovulation, cysts on the ovaries, abnormal facial growth, infrequent or absent menstrual periods.
Polypharmacy
The simultaneous use of multiple medications.
Polysomnography
Diagnostic testing conducted in a sleep laboratory.
Polytherapies
The use of more than one treatment method in a combined therapeutic approach.

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Polytrauma System of Care
(PSC)
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.
Polytraumatic Injuries
Multi-systemic injuries that may include severe pain, amputations, PTSD psychological responses, burns, and other challenges in addition to brain injury.
Controls facial movements, facial sensation, hearing, and coordinating eye movements; also coordinates thoughts and movement.
Positional Asphyxia
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.
Positive Reframing
A psychological technique that assists people in identifying maladaptive thoughts and instead finding the positive alternative view of various events, thoughts, or beliefs.
Post-Acute Care
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.
Post-Concussion Syndrome

(PCS)
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.
Post-Controlled Cortical Cmpact

(post-CCI)
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.
Post-Deployment Health Assessment
(PDHA)
Health screening that every service member completes upon leaving the battlefield.
Postdrome
A symptom, or set of symptoms, occurring after a condition has passed; often used in conjunction after-effects of migraine.
Posterior
Back.

Return to Word List
Posterior Cord Syndrome
A rare syndrome; occurs primarily with intraoperative complications in spinal surgery.
Posterior Longitudinal Ligament
Ligament connecting the spinal column; runs behind the vertebral bodies.
Postictal Period
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.

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Post-Traumatic Amnesia
(PTA)
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.
Post-Traumatic Epilepsy

(PTE)
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 Headache

(PTH)
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.
Post-Traumatic Hypersomnia
Excessive daytime sleepiness; often develops 6 to 18 months following head trauma.
Post-Traumatic Immune Paralysis
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.
Post-Traumatic Migraine (PTM)
Chronic migraines brought on by trauma to the head or neck.
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

(PTSD)
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.
Power of Attorney
A legal document in which a competent person (the principal) appoints another (the agent) to act for him in legal and financial matters.
Practical Intelligence
Ability to solve practical life problems in everyday settings.
Practice Effects
The influence on test results of having taken the same test previously and having learned as a result; a consequence of repeat testing.
Preclinical
The experimental stage of research prior to human clinical trials.
Prefrontal Cortex
An area of the frontal lobes that carries out executive functions, and expressions of personality.
Premature Ejaculation (PE)
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.
Premature Ventricular Contractions
Abnormal cardiac activity due to extra heartbeats originating in the heart’s lower chambers.
Premenstrual Mood Dysphoria
Extreme mood shifts (such as marked irritability, tension or anxiety, extreme sadness or hopelessness) due to hormonal fluctuations related to menstruation.
Premorbid
Symptom or condition occurring prior to the occurrence or development of physical or mental disease.
Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance

(PLAAFP)
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.
Pressure Sores
Bedsores.
Prevalence
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.
Primary Blast Injury
The initial injury incurred as a result of blast waves that cause overpressure resulting in organ and tissue damage.
Primary Care
PTSD Screen
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
Primary Fatigue
Fatigue that results directly from injury or disease.
Primary Headache
A headache that has no specific cause.
Primary Injury
Initial cause of damage to the brain, from which injury severity ratings are obtained.
Primar Motor Cortex
An area of the frontal lobes that sends signals down to the muscles of the body, controlling voluntary movement.
Primary Sensory Cortex
An area in the parietal lobes that processes sensory information (also called the somatosensory cortex).
Private School
Service Plan
(PSSP)
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.
Privilege
A right of the patient to prevent disclosure of health care information by a health care provider.
Procedural Memory
Remembering how to tie shoes or ride a bike without consciously thinking about these activities; often involved in learning motor skills.
Prodrome
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).
Progesterone
A hormone that has been studied as a potential neuroprotective agent in preclinical models of TBI for several decades.
Prognosis
The expected course of a disease or outcome of a treatment (plural, prognoses).
Promising Practices
Strategies and programs based on theory or research, with some scientific data showing their effectiveness but without enough evidence to support generalizable conclusions.
Prone
Lying flat, face downward.
Prophylaxis
The prevention of disease by employing a specific preventive measure.
Proprioception
A person’s sense of where their body (or limbs) are in space.
Prosody
Characteristics of speech, such as rhythm and inflections, used to express meaning.
Prostaglandins
A group of lipid compounds that act like hormones and are enzymatically derived from fatty acids.
Protected Health Information

(\textit{PHI})
Identifying health information that can be linked to a person individually.
Protection and Advocacy

(P&A)
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.
Pruning
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.
Pseudoaneurysm
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.
Pseudobulbar Affect (PBA) or Emotional Incontinence
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.
Psychoactive Substance Misuse
The use of any psychoactive drug for non-medical purposes.
Psychoeducation
Education offered about mental health issues to enable the client to deal with the condition in an optimal manner.
Psychological Fatigue
A state of weariness related to reduced motivation, prolonged mental activity, or boredom that occurs in situations such as chronic stress, anxiety or depression.
Psychometrics
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.
Psychosocial
Involving both psychological and social aspects.
PTSD Checklist

(PCL)
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
Public Domain
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.
Pudendal Nerve
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.
Pulmonary Embolism
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).
Quadrants
A term used when a thing is divided into four sections.
Quality of Life Scale

(QOL Scale)
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.
Quaternary Blast Injuries
Occur through the inhalation of gases or other toxic substances released by a bomb or IED.
Race
A biological marker and social construct based on geo-historical location.
Racial/Cultural Identity Development Model

(R/CID)
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.
Ranchos Level
Refers to a score derived from the Ranchos Los Amigos Level of Cognitive Functioning Scale (LCFS).
Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)
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.
Rapid Eye Movement Sleep
(REM Sleep)
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.
Reactive Axonal Sprouting
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.
Reasonable Accommodations
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.
Receptive Language
The ability to understand language.
Receptor Sites
Neurotransmitter-specific sites on the receiving neurons.

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Referred Pain
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.
Reflective Listening
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.
Reflexic Bladder
Involuntary bladder contractions in persons with spinal cord injury (SCI), which can lead to urinary accidents.
Reinforcement
Something that strengthens or encourages a behavior.
Reinforcer
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.

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Reliability
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.
Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS)
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.

Available at
Reserve Setting
Detailed projection of charges for future medical services and products; used in financial planning for determining the settlement amount in a legal claim.
Resilience
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.
Resource Facilitation
(RF)
“A partnership that helps people and communities choose, get and keep information, services and supports to make informed choices and meet their goals.”
Resource Utilization
The extent to which resources are put to use in order to maximize production or outcomes.
Response to Intervention

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

(R)
Anything that can be done and measured; part of the four-term contingency.
Restorative Approach
Based on the premise of neuroplasticity, a form of cognitive rehabilitation that aims to re-establish lost functions or develop new functions.
Restorative
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.
Restraint
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.
Reticular Activating System (RAS)
The RAS modulates or changes arousal, alertness, concentration, and basic biological rhythms.
The inner lining of the eye. The retina is multi-layered and is lined with blood vessels.
Retinal Hemorrhage
Bleeding in eyes; one of the diagnostic indicators of abusive head trauma (AHT).
Retrograde Amnesia
Loss of access to memories before the event that caused the amnesia.
Return to Duty

(RTD)
Plan for resuming work activities; may be either full or restricted.

Return to Word List
Review of Systems
A standard part of a full history and physical examination.
Right and Left Hemispheres
The sides of the cerebrum or cerebellum.
Risk Management
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.
Romberg
A test of balance performed as part of a neurological evaluation.
Rubrospinal Tract
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.
S.M.A.R.T. Goals
Goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-limited.
Saccades
Fast eye movements from one target to another (allow us to move word to word when reading or object to object when driving).
Sacral Foramina
Holes in the sacrum, through which nerves from the cauda equina pass.
Sacral Nerve Roots
These five sacral nerves arise from the area of the sacrum and supply the bladder, rectum, the genitalia, and the descending colon.
Sacralization
The term used when a lumbar disc is fused to the sacrum.
Sacroiliac Joint
Where the sacrum and ilium meet.
Sacrum
Comprised of five bones that are fused together into a large bony structure in the middle of the low back region.
Sagittal Plane
Midline.
Salient
Most important or worthy of attention.
Satisfaction with Life Scale
(SWLS)
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
Scatter Skills
(also known as splinter skills)
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.
Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI)
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.
Seclusion
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.
Second Impact Syndrome (SIS)
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.

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Secondary Blast Injury
Caused by projected or falling debris or explosive fragments that impact the body or head.
Secondary Fatigue
A number of factors that may exacerbate fatigue, such as pain, sleep disturbance or stress.
Secondary Gain
The benefits, such as money or attention, gained from having an illness.
Secondary Headache
A headache that may have an identifiable cause that can be determined.
Secondary Injury
Pathophysiological events that occur following the initial primary injury to the brain.
Selective Attention
The ability to maintain attention in the presence of distractions.
Self-Advocate
A person who advocates for himself or herself by exercising personal choice and free will.
Self-Awareness
The capacity to perceive the ‘self’ in relatively objective terms while maintaining a sense of subjectivity.
Semantic Memory
General knowledge or facts about the world.
Sensorimotor
Functioning of both sensory and motor systems together.
Sensorimotor Cortex
The region of the cerebral cortex that receives and processes sensory input from various parts of the body.
Sensory Memory
Information from each of the five senses, held in memory for a few seconds immediately after the item is perceived.
Sensory Stimulation
Focused presentation of different stimuli to gauge responses to sensory input and facilitate increased response consistency.
Sequela
A secondary result of disease, injury or condition (sequelae is the plural form).
Serotonin
A neurotransmitter associated with mood disorders, particularly depression.
Severe TBI
Injury to the head resulting in a loss of consciousness of 24 hours or more.
Sexual Ideation
Sexual thoughts.
Shaken Baby Syndrome

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

Return to Word List
Shaping
A term used in operant conditioning; to modify behavior by rewarding changes that tend toward a desired response.
Short-Term Memory
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).
Shrapnel
Projected or falling explosive fragments that impact the body or head.
Silent
Without outward signs.
Sinus Arrest
A pause in electrical impulses of the heart, usually followed by a new sinus beat; if no pacemaker begins activity, cardiac arrest results.
Sinus Arrhythmia
Normal increase in heart rate occurring with inspiration (breathing in).
Sleep Apnea
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.
Small Bowel Tube Feeding
Feeding tubes placed into the duodenum (small bowel) to reduce risk of aspiration.
Smart Phone
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.
Smooth Pursuits
Eye movements following a slow moving target that keep an image still.
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 Intelligence
A distinct set of skills necessary in order to successfully navigate the environment.
Social Security Act
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.
Social Security Disability Insurance
(SSIDI)
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).
Sociorace
The role of socio-historical realities for groups when examining racial identity.
Somatization
Reported physical symptoms with no apparent biological cause that may prove to be a result of mental anxiety.
Somatoagnosia
Lack of awareness of body structure and body part relationships.
Somatosensory System
Nerve impulses regarding proprioception, tactile sensation, thermal sensation, pressure sensation, and pain.
Spasticity
Involuntary, abnormal motoric patterns; may interfere with a person’s general functioning, self-care, and mobility.
Special Needs Trust
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.
Specialized Academic Instruction
(SAI)
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.
Spectatoring
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.
Spinal Column
The spine; consists of 33 vertebrae, joined together with discs and ligaments.
Spinal Cord Injury

(SCI)
Damage to the spinal cord resulting in a change in muscular and sensory function that may be either permanent or temporary.
Spinal Foramen
The hole in the side of the vertebra, where the spinal nerves exit.
Spinoreticular Tract
The afferent nerve tract that sends sensory information from the body to the reticular formation of the thalamus.
Spinotectal Tract
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.
Spinothalamic Tracts
Afferent nerves; the lateral spinothalamic tract mediates pain and temperature sensation and the ventral spinothalamic tract transmits impulses of touch to the brain.
Spinous Process
The bony projection on the posterior of the vertebra.
Splinter Skills
See scatter skills.
Spondylosis
Arthritis of the neck.
Spontaneous Recovery
Re-emergence of behavior previously extinguished.
SSRIs
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; a class of anti-depressants.
Stability Triangle
A construct used to illustrate the need to stabilize one medically, behaviorally, and with regard to activity.
Standard Precautions

*(Universal Precautions)*
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 of Concussion (SAC)
An assessment tool that provides a gross measure of four cognitive domains.
Standardized Assessment
A test (assessment) that is given in the same manner to all test takers.
State Children’s Health Insurance Program

(SCHIP, now known as CHIP)
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.
State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI)
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.
Status Epilepticus
More than 30 minutes of continuous seizure activity or two or more sequential seizures without full recovery of consciousness between seizures.

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Statutory Law
Laws enacted by Congress or a state legislature in the form of individual statutes, which together form a code.
Stevens-Johnson Syndrome
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.
Strategy Training
Cognitive rehabilitation component that focuses on the application of compensatory approaches to address residual deficits not amenable to natural recovery and cognitive training.
Structural Plasticity
Changes in the dendrites and dendritic spines of neurons following learning, stress, long-term potentiation, or exposure to toxins.
Student Study Team
(SST)
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.
Subarachnoid Space
The space between the arachnoid layer and the pia mater, in which cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) circulates.
Subdural Hematoma
Bleeding into the space between the dura mater and the arachnoid layers of the meninges.
Substance Misuse
Consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, and the use of prescription drugs exceeding the prescribed amount (or use of another person’s prescription drugs).
Substance P
A neuropeptide secreted by nerves and inflammatory cells; is associated with inflammatory processes and pain.
Substance Use Disorder
(SUD)
Continued substance use despite health, psychological, or social consequences.
Substances
Alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs, marijuana, and tobacco.
Subventricular Zone (SVZ)
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.
Successive Approximations
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.

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Sumatriptan
A type of medication for migraine headaches (Imitrex).
Superior Colliculus
A small, round structure in the midbrain, below the thalamus.
Superior
Top; from above.
Supination
Rotation of the arm and forearm so that the palm is facing upward.

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Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
A federal program that provides financial benefits to low-income individuals who are blind, disabled, or over the age of 65.
Supported Employment
Competitive employment with ongoing support services.
Suprachiasmatic Nucleus
A tiny region in the brain’s midline that is responsible for controlling the body’s circadian rhythms.
Suprapubic Catheter
A catheter placed above the pubic bone through an opening in the skin.
Suspendable Offenses
Actions for which a student can be suspended from school.

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Sustained Attention
The ability to maintain attention to complete a task accurately and efficiently over a period of time.
Symmetric
The left side matches the right.
Synapse
The junction between the axon of one neuron and the dendrite of another neuron.
Synaptic Gap
Space between the axon and the other neuron’s dendrite.
Synaptogenesis
The formation of new neuronal connections.
Syncope
Loss of consciousness and posture; also known as passing out.
Syndrome of Inappropriate Antidiuretic Hormone (SIADH)
Caused by excessive production of ADH by the pituitary; also called Schwartz-Bartter syndrome; symptoms include nausea, vomiting, irritability, confusion, seizures, and coma.
Syndrome of the Trephined
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.).
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.
Tachycardia
An abnormally fast heart beat when at rest.
Tachypnea
An abnormal increase in breathing rate.
Tactile Stimuli
A sensory stimulus produced to determine the ability to feel.
Target Behavior
The behavior to be changed.
Task Analysis
A list of very specific steps involved in completing a task; can be used to break down larger tasks into smaller component steps.
Tau Proteins
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.
TDDs
Telecommunication devices for the deaf.
Technology
Training
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).
Tectospinal Tract
Efferent nerve tract descends from the superior colliculus to the anterior cervical spinal cord; directs head movements in response to visual and auditory stimuli.
Telehealth
Delivery of health services via the use of electronic and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance health care.
Tender Point
A tender point elicits pain at the point of tenderness.
TENS Unit
(Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation Unit)
A medical device that delivers small electrical currents to targeted body parts where there is injury or pain.
Tension-Type Headaches
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.
Tertiary Blast Injury
Caused as the displaced body impacts the ground, a wall, or any other object.
Thalamus
The part of the brain that acts as a major relay station for incoming and outgoing sensory information.
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973
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.
Therapeutic Environmental Stimuli Management
Modification of the environment in which the therapy task is being conducted.

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Thoracic
Pertaining to the ribs.
Thorax
Rib cage.
Timed-Voiding
A bladder-retraining program to reduce urgency, frequency and urinary incontinence.
Tinnitus
Buzzing or ringing in the ears.
Tissue Plasminogen Activator
(tPA)
A protein involved in the breakdown of blood clots and approved for therapeutic use in stroke patients up to 3 hours after the incident.
Tonic Posturing
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.
Topography
A term used in behavioral psychology to describe what a behavior looks like physically.
Toxic Mega-Colon
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.
Tracheal Aspiration
Entry of foreign matter, such as enteral feeding, into the respiratory system.
Tracheostomy Tube
A tube inserted into an opening in the neck to provide oxygen-rich air into the lungs, bypassing the mouth and nose.
Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation

(TMS)
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.
Transfers
Moving from one surface to another.
Transient
Temporary in nature.
Transverse Process
Bony projections that jut out at an angle on both sides of the vertebra.
Traumatic Brain Injury
(Educational Definition)
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
(TBI)
An alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force.
Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996
A federal law enacted in 1996. It is the only federal legislation that specifically and exclusively addresses TBI in the civilian population.
Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems

(TBIMS)
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.tbindsc.org/

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Traumatic Impact
Injuries resulting from contact (when the head is struck by or against an object).
Traumatic Inertial Injuries
Injury to the brain not caused by impact but as a result of inertial forces, such as acceleration-deceleration forces.
Tremors
A movement disorder characterized by unpredictable movements (uncontrollable shaking) with motion or at rest.
Trepanning
or Trephination
The drilling of a hole into the skull. In ancient times, trephination (trepanning) 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.
Triage
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.
Tricyclics
A category of antidepressant medications sometimes used for pain management as they have a synergistic effect with other pain medications.
Trigeminal Nucleus
Bundle of sensory nerves; the largest of the cranial nerve nuclei; extends through the midbrain, pons, and medulla.
Trigger Point
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).
Triptan
A class of medications more specifically known as serotonin receptor agonists.
TTYSs
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.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(USDHHS)
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.
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
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.
Unilateral
On only one side.
Universalism
An assumption that human characteristics common to all members of the species produce psychological givens with culture influencing their development and display.
Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)
An infection affecting all or part of the urinary system (kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra).
Urosepsis
A severe illness caused by an infection in the urinary tract spreading to the bloodstream; can be life-threatening.
Vaginismus
Involuntary tightness of the pubococcygeal muscles upon attempted penetration; often linked to past sexual trauma. Treatment for vaginismus does not usually involve surgery.
Validity
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.
Vascular Headache
Headaches thought to be related to swelling and contraction of blood vessels, which appear to be the likely source of the pain.
Vascular Supply
(Arteries and veins) brings nutrients and oxygen to, and carbon dioxide and waste products away from, organs and limbs.
Vasocongestion
The swelling of body tissues due to increased blood flow; often indicative of sexual arousal.
Vasopressin
Also known as Antidiuretic Hormone (ADH), important for the constriction of blood vessels and retention of water in the body.
Vasoprotective
Alleviating or preventing conditions related to the blood vessels.
Vasospasm
The construction or narrowing of blood vessels.
Vegetative State
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.
Veins
Blood vessels that carry blood to the heart.
Venous Thrombus Embolism
(VTE)
A disease that includes both deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE).
Venous
Pertaining to veins.
Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication
Body language, tone, and silences.
Vergence
Eyes working together.
Vertebra
Individual bone of the spine; plural form is vertebrae.
Vertebral Bodies
The largest part of the vertebra; weight-bearing portion.
Vertebrobasilar Insufficiency (VBI)
A temporary lack of blood flow to the medulla, cerebrum, pons, thalamus, midbrain, and occipital cortex; symptoms vary.
Vertical Communication
Communication while one is up and moving about; in contrast to horizontal communication occurring while one is in bed.
Vesicles
Sacs filled with neurotransmitter.
Video Modeling
Videos showing examples of behaviors expected; often used to teach social skills for children with special needs.
Virtual Reality

(VR)
Computer-based systems that allow an individual to view a simulated environment and dynamically respond and interact within this environment in real-time.
Visual Acuity
Clarity of vision.
Visual Analog Scale
A pictorial tool to measure subjective level of pain. The scale typically goes from 0 to 10, with 10 being the worst).
Visual Analogue Scale for Fatigue

(VAS-F)
A measure of subjective quantification of fatigue levels, requiring the person to respond to descriptors on two subscales.
Visual Cortex
Part of the cerebral cortex responsible for processing visual information, located in the occipital lobes.
Visual Pursuit
Eye movements following a moving object.
Vitreous Humor
The jelly-like substance that fills the interior of the eyeball.
Vocational
Relating to the special skills or training needed for a particular job or occupation.
Vocational Case Coordination

(VCC)
An holistic approach to vocational rehabilitation, in which VR is seen as one part of an individualized rehabilitation program.
Vocational Rehabilitation Services

(VR Services)
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.
Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1954

(VR Act of 1954)
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.
Wada
A memory performance test that is often predictive of the likely outcome for candidates of seizure relief surgery.
An assessment test measuring intelligence in adults. The current version is comprised of 10 subtests, and indices measure performance in verbal comprehension, working memory, perceptual organization, and processing speed.

Wechsler Memory Scale
(WMS)
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-CACatalog
Wernicke’s Area
A part of the brain that governs a person’s understanding of speech; located in the left temporal-parietal lobe area.
Wernicke’s Encephalopathy
Biochemical lesions in the central nervous system caused by exhaustion of reserves of thiamine; characterized by aphasia, confusion, and ophthalmoplegia.
Westmead Post-Traumatic Amnesia Scale
One of several instruments used to measure post-traumatic amnesia.

Available at
White Matter Tracts
Found in the brain and spinal cord; composed of bundled axons and glial cells.
Widely Accepted
Instruments that have withstood substantial rigor in the scientific community and are endorsed for use without being subject to question.
Work Hardening
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.
Temporary storage and active processing of information.
World Health Organization

(WHO)
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.
World Health Organization Quality of Life Scale

(WHOQOL Scale)
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.

Available at
Worldview
A psychological perception of the world that determines how we think, behave, and feel.