



17th Annual Brain Injury Conference

February 7, 2025 | Automotive Building, Exhibition Place

Poster #: 12

Abstract Title: What Good Is Knowing Information if You Do Not Share It? Enhancing Traumatic Brain Injury Recovery Through Knowledge Translation

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ABSTRACT:

Abstract Theme: Moderate - Severe Brain Injury

Topic(s) of Interest: Knowledge Translation

Purpose of Project: Many patients with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) receive care from non-specialized or community healthcare providers who do not have the experience to manage this complex and chronic condition. There is a communication gap between specialized clinicians and (1) TBI patients and (2) non-TBI specializing clinicians, resulting in poor quality information communicated in the discharge/transfer process.

Methods, Procedure, Results/Outcome, Conclusion:

METHODS: Two Guides were developed to facilitate communication from specialized clinicians to patients and non-TBI specializing clinicians. The development followed a structured process: (1) reviewing the Canadian Clinical Practice Guideline for the Rehabilitation of Adults with Moderate to Severe TBI and the Neurotrauma Care Pathways (NCP) to ensure alignment with evidenced-based practices, (2) leveraging the NCP's pilot implementation projects to identify key resources, and (3) consulting with end-users, including persons with lived experience, caregivers, and healthcare providers. To ensure broad and easy access of the Guides, a wide-reaching knowledge mobilization strategy was used, including collaborating with the Neurosurgery Education & Outreach Network, communicating with Acquired Brain Injury Navigators, presenting at conferences to raise awareness among healthcare professionals, and leveraging social media platforms. The Guides are designed to be distributed to the patient and non-TBI specializing clinician upon patient discharge/transfer from specialized acute care.

OUTCOMES: The patient Guide includes a primary care checklist (i.e., questions to ask before, during, and after an appointment with a primary care provider), information about what to do without a primary care provider, and what to do in an emergency. It also highlights Ontario-wide and regional (Greater Toronto Area) TBI resources. To provide clear, accessible, and user-friendly information, the patient Guide is written in lay language. The Guide for non-TBI specializing clinicians uses the I-PASS patient handoff framework (Illness severity, Patient summary, Action list, Situation awareness and contingency planning, Synthesis by reviewer). This Guide focuses on key TBI clinical practices (e.g., addressing responsive behaviors, co-morbid conditions, disorders of consciousness), rehabilitation assessment, potential complications, and TBI resources. While the patient Guide is generalizable to all TBI patients, the Guide for non-TBI specializing clinicians must be tailored to each patient by the specialized clinician. Metrics from Knowledge Mobilization will be presented.

CONCLUSION: Facilitating patient transition from specialized acute care into the community under the care of non-TBI specializing clinicians is essential to enhance in both patient and clinician preparedness and understanding, as well as to help standardize care to create a more equitable care journey for the patient.