Title | Describe the structure and function of the human brain, and causes, severity, and effects of brain injury on people
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Level | 4 Credits | 8

Purpose | People credited with this unit standard are able to describe: the basic structure and function of the human brain; common causes, severity, and effects of brain injury; and the effects of the location of a brain injury on a person's functioning.

Classification | Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Brain Injury Support

Available grade | Achieved

Explanatory notes

1 Codes and standards relevant to this unit standard include:
Health and Disability Commissioner (The Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights) Regulations 1996;

2 References include:

2 Support should aim to: maintain, improve, or restore a consumer's independence and/or interdependence; utilise the consumer's existing strengths; and, where possible, utilise the resources of the local community.
3 Definitions

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) may be defined as neurological impairment that is acquired after birth. This definition excludes those children whose brain injury was sustained in-utero or in the peri-natal or immediate post-natal periods, or as a result of genetic or degenerative conditions present from birth. ABI includes both traumatic and non-traumatic causes such as brain tumours; central nervous system infections such as meningitis and encephalitis; cerebrovascular accidents; inhalation or ingestion of toxic substances; anoxic injuries; convulsive disorders; and other medical causes.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) may be defined as ‘an insult to the brain, not of a degenerative or congenital nature but caused by an external physical force, that may produce a diminished or altered state of consciousness, which results in impairment of cognitive abilities or physical functioning. It can also result in the disturbance of behavioural or emotional functioning. These impairments may be either temporary or permanent and cause partial or total functional disability or psychosocial maladjustment’ (Savage, 1991, p. 3). TBI is the largest subgroup of brain injuries within the categories of ABI.

Outcomes and evidence requirements

Outcome 1

Describe the basic structure and function of the human brain.

Evidence requirements

1.1 The human brain is described in terms of its basic anatomical structure.

1.2 The basic structures of the human brain are described in terms of their role in the function of the human brain.

Range cerebral cortex, hemispheres, frontal lobe, parietal lobe, occipital lobes, temporal lobes, brain stem, cerebellum, neurons.

Outcome 2

Describe common causes, severity, and effects of brain injury.

Evidence requirements

2.1 Common causes of brain injury for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and acquired brain injury (ABI) are described.

Range common causes of brain injury include but are not limited to – acceleration and deceleration, contra coup, localised, vascular, penetrating, hypoxic.
2.2 Common causes of brain injury are described in terms of human life stages.

Range human life stages – infancy; early childhood, middle childhood, adolescent, young adult, older adult; evidence is required for two people with different causes of brain injury, who are at different life stages.

2.3 Common vehicles for brain injury are described in relation to the functioning of the brain.

Range common vehicles for brain injury include but are not limited to – sporting incidents, motor accidents, disease, degenerative conditions, falls; evidence is required for four different vehicles for brain injury.

2.4 Brain injury is described in terms of its severity in accordance with the ACC TBI Guidelines, the Glasgow Coma Scale, and post-traumatic amnesia.

Range mild, moderate, severe.

2.5 Types of bleeds that can occur in the brain are described.

Range subdural, extradural, subarachnoid, intracerebral, stroke, cerebral vascular accident.

2.6 The effects of brain injury on a person's functioning are described in terms of their causes, types, and severity.

Outcome 3

Describe the effects of the location of a brain injury on a person's functioning.

Evidence requirements

3.1 Changes in a person's functioning after a brain injury are described in terms of the location of the injury.

Range frontal lobe, parietal lobe, occipital lobes, temporal lobes, brain stem, cerebellum; cognition, behaviour, emotion, communication, physical function, fatigue.

3.2 A localised brain injury is compared with a global injury in terms of its effects on the person.

| Planned review date | 31 December 2016 |
Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

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Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference

0024


Please note

Providers must be granted consent to assess against standards (accredited) by NZQA, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be granted consent to assess against standards by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Providers and Industry Training Organisations, which have been granted consent and which are assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Consent requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Community Support Services ITO Limited [enquiries@careerforce.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@careerforce.org.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.