

<b>Title</b>	<b>Describe the human brain, brain injuries, and their classifications</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>A person credited with this standard can describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the structure and function of the human brain;</li> <li>• common causes of brain injury and when they are likely to occur;</li> <li>• the types and systems for classifying the severity of brain injury; and</li> <li>• the causes and potential effects of diffuse axonal injury on brain function.</li> </ul>
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<b>Classification</b>	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Brain Injury Support
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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## Guidance Information

### 1 Definition

*Brain Injury* may be acquired or congenital. *Acquired Brain Injury* (ABI) is a neurological impairment that is acquired after birth. It includes *Traumatic Brain Injury* (TBI), which is the largest subgroup of brain injuries within the categories of Acquired Brain Injury. This unit standard does not cover congenital brain injury.

### 2 References

Centre for Neuro Skills (2020). *Glasgow Coma Scale*. Neuroskills.com. Retrieved on 2 April 2021 from <https://www.neuroskills.com/education-and-resources/glasgow-coma-scale/>.

New Zealand Guidelines Group. (2006). *Traumatic brain injury: Diagnosis, acute management and rehabilitation*. Wellington: New Zealand: Accident Compensation Corporation. Available from the Ministry of Health library at <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/ministry-health-library>.

World Health Organization (WHO). (2001). *International classification of functioning, disability and health*. WHO.int. Retrieved on 2 April 2021 from <http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/>.

### 3 Resources

Accident Compensation Corporation publish resources at <https://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/> under Injury support > Traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Sydney Children's Hospitals Network publishes information sheets and resources focusing on children after brain injury at: <https://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/find-a-service/health-medical-services/brain-injury>.

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## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Describe the structure and function of the human brain.

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

### Performance criteria

- 1.1          The anatomical structures of the human brain are described.
- 1.2          The function of anatomical structures in the human brain are described.

### Outcome 2

Describe common causes of brain injury and when they are likely to occur.

### Performance criteria

- 2.1          Common causes of brain injury are described.  
  
Range          may include but is not limited to – acceleration and deceleration, contra coup, vascular, penetrating, hypoxic.
- 2.2          The most common life stages at which are the different types of brain injury occur are identified.  
  
Range          infancy; early childhood, middle childhood, adolescent, young adult, older adult.

### Outcome 3

Describe the types and systems for classifying the severity of brain injury.

- 3.1          The *Glasgow Coma Scale* classifications of brain injury are described.
- 3.2          The *International classification of functioning, disability and health* classifications applicable to brain injury are described.
- 3.3          Post-traumatic amnesia is described.
- 3.4          The types of bleeds that can occur in the brain are described.  
  
Range          subdural, extradural, subarachnoid, intracerebral, stroke, cerebral vascular accident.

### Outcome 4

Describe the causes and potential effects of diffuse axonal injury on brain function.

**Performance criteria**

4.1 The causes of diffuse axonal injury are described.

Range concussive impact; sub-concussive impact.

4.2 The effects of diffuse axonal injury on brain function are described.

Range function includes – cognitive, autonomic motor, sensory;  
effects may include but are not limited to – long-term changes to  
brain function, increased risk of related neurological conditions.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2026
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	19 November 2010	31 December 2023
Rollover and Revision	2	24 October 2019	31 December 2023
Review	3	27 May 2021	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0024
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact Careerforce [info@careerforce.org.nz](mailto:info@careerforce.org.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.