Title | Describe the human brain, brain injuries, and their classifications
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Level | 4
Credits | 8

### Purpose
A person credited with this standard can describe:
- the structure and function of the human brain;
- common causes of brain injury and when they are likely to occur;
- the types and systems for classifying the severity of brain injury; and
- the causes and potential effects of diffuse axonal injury on brain function.

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

### Available grade
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**
   
   
   

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

### Planned review date

| Planned review date | 31 December 2026 |

### Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

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### Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0024


### Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Careerforce info@careerforce.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.