



SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY & ASSESSMENT

Every person experiences different changes after brain injury, often making diagnosis and assessment tricky. There are multiple types of professionals that participate in diagnostic testing and treatment after brain injury. Specialty, credentials, experience, and access are all components to choosing which specialist is right for you. Some may not take insurance or are not offered under state-funded services. Be sure to ask about the type of testing performed, experience with brain injury, and potential financial options prior to your visit. For some, testing is helpful every couple of years to indicate changes in rehabilitation.

Neuropsychology

At the current time, a neuropsychological assessment is the most sensitive method available for assessing comprehensive problems after brain injury. Many programs or financial systems require some sort of evaluation such as a neuropsychological assessment as part of eligibility. The individual's memory, ability to learn new information, attention, and other skills important to daily functions are assessed. It is best done over two or more appointments, as it may take several hours to complete. At the completion of the assessment, the neuropsychologist meets with the individual and family members to discuss the test findings and make recommendations for treatment, support systems, or rehabilitation. Ask questions to make sure you get the most of your assessment and understand next steps.



Neurologist

Neurologists are medical doctors that manage and treat neurological conditions, or problems with the nervous system. Symptoms commonly treated include coordination problems, muscle weakness, a change in sensation or senses, confusion, dizziness, seizures, or headaches. Neurologists may prescribe medication, perform neurological exams, or refer for extensive testing such as imaging or assessing electrical activity.

Functional Neurologist

A functional neurology exam evaluates the brain in relation to possible nerve damage in other areas of the body, problems in the joints or spine, and damage to the vestibular system (causing dizziness, nausea, and disorientation). Functional neurology combines a variety of exam tools to create a broad, objective picture of brain function and health, including coordination and eye tracking. Functional Neurologists may have a variety of background with many having experience in chiropractic medicine.

Neurofeedback

Neurofeedback is also called EEG Biofeedback, because it is self-regulation training based on electrical brain activity detected by an electroencephalogram (EEG). Neurofeedback is typically provided by medical or mental health professionals such as neurologists, psychologists, family therapists, and counselors.

Rehabilitation Physician

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) physicians, also known as physiatrists, treat a wide variety of medical conditions affecting the brain, spinal cord, nerves, bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, and tendons. By taking the whole body into account, they are able to accurately pinpoint problems and enhance performance without surgery. A PM&R physician will thoroughly assess your condition, needs, and expectations to develop a treatment plan.

FINDING THE RIGHT DIAGNOSIS

For many people, they find themselves having to prove their diagnosis to medical professionals making the process extremely frustrating. Some ideas to make the process go smoother may be:

- provide any previous accident or medical documentation related to injury or symptoms.
- keep a log of symptoms, when they occur, and what may make them worse.
- ask questions and advocate if you are confused, curious, or need clarification.

RESOURCES & REFERENCES

- Healthline: www.healthline.com
- American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: www.aapmr.org
- EEG INFO: eeginfo.com
- American Psychological Association: www.apa.org
- American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology: theaacn.org
- American Chiropractic Neurology Board: www.acnb.org