



Common professionals that work with individuals who have sustained brain injuries:

Note: this is not an exhaustive list

Benefit Counselors - Help clients understand what benefits they qualify for by walking through options. Often explore financial assistance programs, employment, and insurance options.

Case Managers - Help coordinate care with other providers and ensure clients are advocated for in their health and personal needs.

Disability Advocates - Help fight for the rights of disabled individuals. Often work as liaisons between clients and outside entities to ensure equal and fair access to services and supports in the community.

Homemakers - Provide assistance to individuals who cannot complete household tasks independently such as cooking, cleaning, and grocery shopping.

Independent Life Skill Trainers (ILST) - Help clients to gain or maintain skills to create autonomy such as budgeting, problem solving, maintaining household responsibilities, and learning how to navigate to a new place. Client's personal short- and long-term goals are considered. Individualized to fit the client's vision.

Life Care Planners - Help clients and family members develop a long-term plan for financial security, and overall well-being, taking into consideration disability and chronic health concerns.

Mental Health Counselors - Focuses on helping clients reach their optimum mental health by working through emotions, thought patterns, etc. Often specialize in particular areas of concern such as trauma, conflict resolution, and stress.

Neurologists - Physicians specialized in disorders of the brain, spinal cord, and nerves. Will often order diagnostic tests such as an MRI, CT scan, etc.

Neuropsychiatrists (nu-ro-sigh-chi-atrist) - Help to diagnose mental disorders that affect the nervous system. Can prescribe medications to help symptoms and often counsel individuals and their families throughout changes.

Neuropsychologists (nu-ro-sigh-cologist) - Assess, diagnose, and treat a variety of disorders related to the brain and body connection. This typically includes a battery of tests to figure out what cognitive deficits may exist, i.e. memory, attention, and mental flexibility.

Neurosurgeons - Medical doctors specialized in brain surgery. Work with patients in a hospital setting and communicate with neurologists about recovery.

Occupational Therapists (OT)- Help clients recover from injury by focusing on functional skills needed for daily living. Often provide compensatory strategies to help with everyday activities such as brushing teeth, washing dishes, and eating.

Personal Care Workers (PCW)- Help patients with activities of daily living such as showering, cooking, grooming, etc.

Personal Injury Lawyers - Defend clients in legal cases where they were physically and/or mentally affected by an event that caused injury.

Physiatrists (fis-i-uh-trist) - Medical doctors with a specialization in rehabilitation medicine. Often design treatment protocols and diagnose illness.

Physical Therapists (PT) - Help patients gain strength, balance, and other skills to improve physical function of the body. Help to prevent further injury or impairment such as falls.

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners - Advanced care for clients with psychiatric disorders. Provide therapy in conjunction with prescribing medication for mental health needs.

Resource Navigators - Connect with community organizations to meet client needs in all aspects of recovery. Will often make referrals and guide clients on what options are available for what resources they are searching for.

Social Workers - Focus on meeting client needs in a multitude of areas to enhance social functioning. Will often schedule ongoing calls to follow-up on progress and follow-through.

Speech Language Pathologists (SLP)- Help with communication and swallowing disorders. Offer cognitive therapy to focus on present thinking and behavior.

Vocational rehabilitation specialists - Work with disabled individuals to find suitable employment. Consider necessary accommodations and help create personalized goals.

