

When someone you know goes home after being examined for brain injury in an Emergency Department

The effects of “mild” brain injury may not be seen right away some people may act differently or have problems for a few weeks. Sometimes these problems last longer, it is important to get help right away if you see changes in your loved one.

Your loved one’s head has been hurt. A doctor has seen your loved one in the emergency department. This sheet describes possible changes you should watch for and give suggestions on how to get help

Your loved one may have

- Passed out
- Been dizzy
- Felt Sick
- Acted strange

When your loved one leaves the emergency room department, the doctor or nurse should give you instructions on what to watch for over the next 24 hours. They should describe any important changes to be aware of, if you see any of these changes, you need to consult a doctor right away.

If you do not get these instructions, ask for them. Most emergency room departments call this information, a “Head Sheet”.

Most people who hurt their heads have no problems, but some do. Some families worry when their loved one looks ok, but does not act quite the same as before the brain injury. Families may not be sure what to do or whom to call.

Talking With Your Doctor

Tell your doctor if any of the behaviors listed below are new for your loved one since their brain injury: Many of these behaviors are somewhat common. However, if they differ from your loved one’s normal behavior, they may be related to the brain injury.

Tell your doctor right away if your loved one now:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becomes restless or temperamental | <input type="checkbox"/> Forgets things |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Takes longer to get things done | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts without thinking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loses his or her temper a lot | <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn’t see or hear as well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Develops problems with words or sentences | <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn’t pay attention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gets mixed up about time and places | <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn’t act the same |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becomes easily upset | <input type="checkbox"/> Drops things or trips a lot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tires easily or needs extra sleep | <input type="checkbox"/> Has a harder time understanding |

These changes may cause problems for a child or an adult at school, with friends, or at home.