

# Research Matters

## Factors that Influence Follow-Up Care for Families of Children with Acquired Brain Injury: A Scoping Review

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DETERMINE THE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE FOLLOW-UP CARE?

Identifying these factors can lead to a better understanding of how to improve access to medical and rehabilitation care for children with acquired brain injury (ABI).

### ABOUT THIS STUDY

Authors Lundine et al. (2022) summarize existing research on barriers and facilitators to accessing medical and rehabilitative service. Based on their scoping review, the authors suggest areas of research that should be further studied so improvements can be made to improve access to and receipt of care.

### KEY FINDINGS

- Families are less likely to attend follow-up appointments when:
  - appointments are difficult to schedule
  - they have scheduling conflicts or forget appointments
  - there are long wait times, or they didn't schedule their first follow-up appointment within one week
  - they have a lack of resources or lower socioeconomic status
- Recommendations are less likely to be followed when families:
  - don't understand discharge information
  - receive too many recommendations or the recommendations are difficult to understand or implement
  - have communication difficulties with their child's school
- Recommendations are more likely to be followed when families:
  - are more knowledgeable about ABI
  - express more concern about their child's injury
  - receive expanded discharge instructions along with information specific to brain injury
    - These families are also more likely to understand how to manage their child's injury and follow recommendations.
  - receive recommendations that are simple and easily implemented

## STUDY IMPLICATIONS

- If educators are aware of barriers and facilitators that students and their families may face, they can more effectively collaborate with stakeholders.
- Educators are in a unique position to help with case-management by:
  - asking questions,
  - obtaining releases of information,
  - collaborating with medical/rehabilitative professionals,
  - following up with families about various appointments and services outside of the school setting.
- Better understanding of barriers and facilitators to appropriate follow-up care may lead to better medical and rehabilitative service access, more needs being met, and ultimately improved outcomes for children with ABI.

## REFERENCE

Lundine, J. P., Ciccio, A. H., Koterba, C., & Guernon, A. (2022). Factors that influence follow-up care for families of children with acquired brain injury: a scoping review. *Brain injury, 36*(4), 469-478.  
DOI: 10.1080/02699052.2022.2051741