

What happens after a person completes acute rehabilitation? There are many different types of programs that can continue providing the stimulation needed for individuals recovering from traumatic brain injury. There are outpatient or day treatments programs.

These treatments are tailored to the needs of individuals after discharge from inpatient rehabilitation and also for those with TBI who have never been hospitalized, but recognized for a need for therapy. Within outpatient services, many options should be available: day programs, physiotherapeutic treatment, cognitive treatment, ADLs program, .... In Spain the outpatient treatment can continue as long as a mean of 6 months after the hospital discharge (dates from Institut Guttmann Hospital, Barcelona, Spain). Then the brain injured patient may continue his treatment at home (private treatment) or in specific private brain Centres.

#### Home care-based treatment

The aspect of rehabilitation that many people tend to overlook is the ongoing support that is needed over the lifetime of the affected individual. This involves the issues that arise from time to time after the survivor has left the hospital and adjusts to daily life in the community.

Problems may occur in the areas of problem solving, memory, communication (which includes listening skills, social skills, and reading and writing skills), attention, organization, decision-making, and planning. Other issues which may or may not have already been addressed in the hospital but which become apparent upon returning home include dealing with household tasks, transportation, money, and rehabilitation program at home.

Very often, however, these issues do not become apparent until many years later. In that instance, community resources must be accessed. Unfortunately, there is a serious lack of these resources, specially in home-based treatment, most frequently in Europe, and very often there are none available in small communities

The family plays a very important role throughout the recovery process (White, 1998). They provide useful and insightful information, such as the survivor's pre-trauma personality and learning style. They provide also psychological support for the patient. Support for the family is important to assure the patient follows the home rehabilitation program in a correct way (Hawley, L.A., 1989).

If we know very few about the effectivity of inpatient and outpatient programs in TBI rehabilitation treatment, we know almost nothing about the effectivity of home-based programs.