

Questions to ask when choosing a: NEUROLOGIST

For Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Developed through a collaboration of the Brain Injury Association of Florida and Brain Injury Alliances of Montana and New Jersey.

When choosing a neurologist to fit the needs of an individual who has sustained a traumatic brain injury, knowing what to ask can help you make the best possible selection. The checklist below is a good place to start. Check each box that can be answered with a "yes." The neurologist who receives the most checkmarks is likely to be the best choice for your loved one. Additional considerations and space for notes are listed below.

	Dr. Name/Notes	Dr. Name/Notes	Dr. Name/Notes
CRITERIA FOR NEUROLOGIST			
Are you a medical doctor with a specialty in Neurology?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If for child or adolescent: with a specialty in Child Neurology?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you accept my insurance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have extensive experience or training treating individuals with brain injury?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have extensive experience treating individuals with brain injury experiencing emotional and/or behavioral challenges?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have extensive experience treating individuals with mild brain injury or (sports) concussions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you prescribe medications for emotional and behavioral challenges following brain injury, or do you refer to another provider?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the medications you prescribe based on experience working with people with brain injury?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you aware of the impact that various forms of brain injury have on the efficacy of medications, or the potential contraindications of certain medications for individuals with brain injury?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your evaluation consider the patient's history and basic cognitive functions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will you provide me with a written summary of your evaluation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you refer out to neuropsychologists or neuropsychiatrists?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you affiliated with a rehabilitation facility and/or team?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you provide references from previous patients?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS:			

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	Notes	Notes	Notes
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS			
Are you Board Certified and, if so, for which Boards?			
What types of specialists do you refer out to (besides neuropsychologists or neuropsychiatrists)?			
What types of diagnostic tests do you utilize?			
• CAT (computed axial tomography) scan			
• MRI/MRA (magnetic resonance imaging/magnetic resonance angiography)			
• Computerized cognitive assessments			
• PET (Positron Emission Tomography)			
• EEG (Electroencephalography)			
• Other			
What physical aspects do you examine (i.e. vision and eye movement, sense of smell, hearing, gag reflex and throat, muscular movements)?			
What is your typical course of treatment?			
How do you monitor individuals who are prescribed medication(s) for efficacy or side effects?			
NOTES:			