

# Continuum of Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Care

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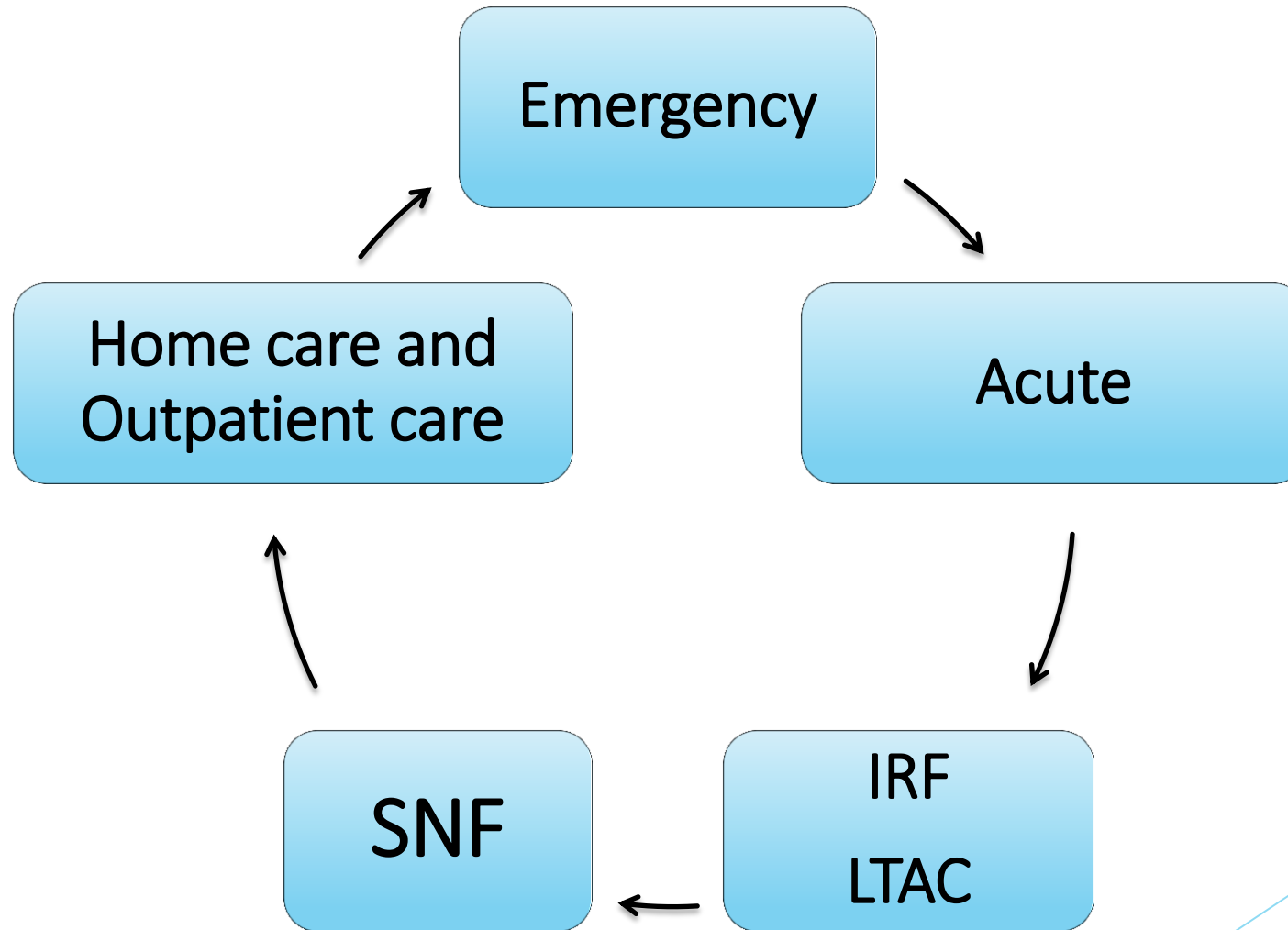
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# What is the Continuum of Care?

A comprehensive array of health services spanning all levels and intensity of care. Covers the delivery of healthcare of a person over a period of time.

No two cases are alike.  
The continuum is different for each person.

# Navigating the System



Services have evolved significantly over the past several decades\*

## Some Common Questions

- “What do you mean we cannot stay as long as we need? We are nowhere near ready to leave.”
- “What level of care does I/we need and how do I fit the criteria?”
- “What if I no longer meet criteria-then where do I/we go?”
- “I was unaware there are many next steps to this process.”
- Who do I/we call when we are ready for these next steps. Is there a phone number?”

**A consistent available resource is critical.**

# Gaps in the Continuum of Care

- Those working with the brain injured individual may not be aware of appropriate resources
- Funding may no longer exist for that service
- Provider may no longer be in business
- Despite providers referring individual to resources the ball may be dropped without follow through
- Family too overwhelmed to call when they arrive at next destination; may forget
- If call is placed to provider by a staff person by the time they call back person may have been discharged from facility
- Waiting list too long to wait for services

# How to Advocate Effectively for Your Loved One

- Ask as many questions as possible from the providers you will be encountering
- Learn as much as you can where you/family member is receiving your treatment
- Reach out to state and private resources as needed
- Ideal to have agencies come to facilities to meet you and your family

# Know Your State Resources

Brain Injury Association of MA

Statewide Head Injury Program

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

Vocational Rehabilitation

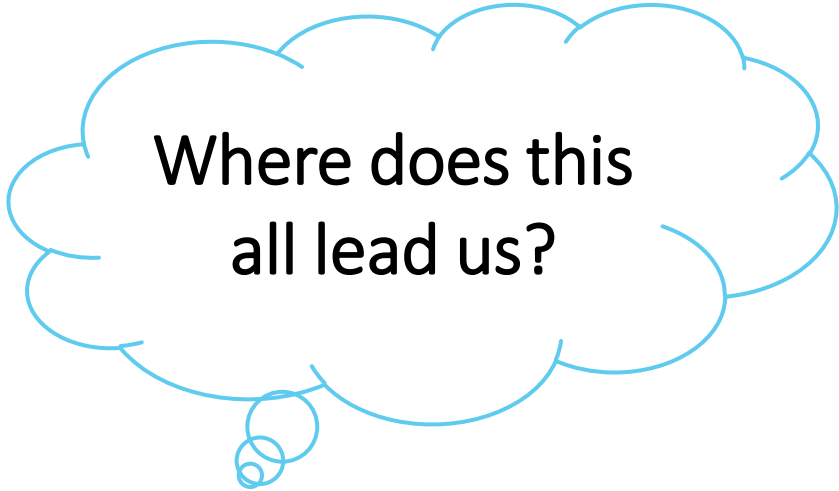
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Case Management Services

Recreational

# Know Your Private Resources

- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Case Management
- Social Service
- Cognitive Rehabilitation
- Mental Health Issues
- Substance Abuse



Where does this  
all lead us?

To brainstorm as a group on how to bridge services so as not to let people fall between the cracks.

To have thoughtful conversations to discuss the impact that funding may have

To know that people with brain injuries can live a long time and when the system/provider fails them it can be like starting all over again- just at a different level.

# How to Find Quality Providers that Know this Field of Specialty

Utilize the information you have gathered



Ask staff



Interview providers



Reach out to your state/private agencies

# **Bridging the Gap:**

## Transitioning from Inpatient to Outpatient Care

**We can narrow the gap**

Have all providers on deck to assist with the transition and the continuum of care can move along less disrupted.

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