

**Creating a Post-Traumatic Amnesia (PTA) flowchart and protocol for use with the traumatic brain injury (TBI) population, within the acute hospital setting.**

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**Introduction:** Accurate and timely assessment of Post Traumatic Amnesia in Traumatic brain injury is an important role of the Neuro-trauma Occupational Therapist as evidenced in previous research from around the world. Thus the senior Occupational Therapist's working in the trauma and neurosurgery units at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne were key stakeholders in the development of a protocol that aimed to identify, assess and manage PTA in the acute setting. However it was also acknowledged in the development of the protocol that the education of patients, families and staff members alike was equally as important in ensuring efficient and appropriate discharge planning from the acute to subacute or community settings.

**Objectives:** To present details on the creation of a PTA flowchart and protocol, for potential use at other centres around the world.

**Methods:** Regular meetings by the Trauma unit team at The Alfred hospital, including allied health, nursing and The Alfred's 'Behaviours of Concern' project coordinator, with input from Heads of the Trauma and Neurosurgery units and Emergency department. The patient with TBI had their journey through the hospital system mapped, national benchmarking occurred and discussion was conducted.

**Results:** Following staff education and training, the PTA protocol is being implemented on the wards and as a result, it's use has improved the accuracy of assessment and treatment of PTA throughout the hospital.

**Conclusions:** The PTA protocol is an effective and accurate tool which assists staff to guide, assess, manage and treat patients with PTA in the acute setting.

**Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy:** The PTA protocol provides a structured and step-by-step approach to PTA management which can be used to guide nursing, medical and allied health staff alike. This protocol ensures clear understanding of the processes of PTA, key points at which certain disciplines should become involved and overall management strategies. This ensures accurate assessment and timely management on the ward and as such, can be used by acute settings around the world.