

What services can I get through the ABI waivers?

The **ABI-RH Waiver** has the following services:

- residential habilitation
- day services
- supported employment
- transportation
- community-based substance abuse treatment
- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- speech therapy
- specialized medical equipment
- transitional assistance

The **ABI-N Waiver** has the following services:

- day services
- supported employment
- transportation
- community-based substance abuse treatment
- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- speech therapy
- specialized medical equipment
- transitional assistance
- homemaker
- personal care
- adult companion
- chore
- home accessibility adaptations
- individual support and community habilitation
- respite

How can I get more information?

You can get more information by calling ABI Waiver Information at **1-866-281-5602**. Or you can send an e-mail to ABIinfo@umassmed.edu to get answers to your questions. More information is also available online at www.mass.gov/mrc.



Home- and Community-Based Services Waivers for Persons with Acquired Brain Injury

ABI Waivers

Questions and Answers

Two waivers for people who have experienced an acquired brain injury (ABI) are available through MassHealth.

What is MassHealth?

MassHealth is a program run by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that pays for health care for people living in Massachusetts who have medium, low, or no income.

What are the ABI waivers?

The two home- and community-based services waivers will help Medicaid-eligible persons with ABI move to the community. If you live in a nursing home or chronic or rehabilitation hospital and have an ABI, you may want to apply for one of these waivers. The waivers will be operated by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), and will offer resources to provide ongoing services in the community.

The **ABI Waiver with Residential Habilitation (ABI-RH)** is for individuals who need placement in a residence that has supervision and staffing 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The **ABI Waiver with No Residential Habilitation (ABI-N)** is for individuals who can move to their own home or apartment or to the home of someone else.



Am I eligible?

To qualify for one of the ABI waivers, you must

- be living in a nursing home or chronic or rehabilitation hospital and have lived there for at least 90 days;
- have experienced an acquired brain injury at age 22 or older. An acquired brain injury can result from a stroke, brain trauma, infection of the brain (such as encephalitis), brain tumor, or anoxia (lack of oxygen);
- meet the clinical requirements and be in need of the waiver services that are available;
- meet the financial requirements to qualify for MassHealth. There are special financial rules for waiver participants; and
- have service needs that are at or under the cost limit of one of the ABI waivers.

Not everyone who meets these rules will be able to get one of these waivers. The waivers will serve 300 people in total. These people will be enrolled over a period of three years.



How can I apply?

If you are interested in applying for one of the ABI waivers or would like more information, please call ABI Waiver Information at **1-866-281-5602**.

Important: Each year, there will be an open application period. MassHealth must get your application **during this period** to be considered for one of the waivers. Please call for ABI Waiver Information at **1-866-281-5602** to find out when the next open application period is.

MassHealth and MRC are working with the University of Massachusetts. Staff of the UMass ABI Waiver Unit will contact you when they have received your application. They will process the application.

If I am eligible for a waiver, what can I expect?

If you are eligible for one of the ABI waivers, you will choose or be assigned a case manager. The case manager will help you decide on your preferences, needs, and goals and help you make an Individual Service Plan (ISP). The ISP lists the services and supports that will help you live in the community. Your case manager will set up your waiver services for you.

