

BRAIN INJURY DECISION TOOL FOR THE AME

Concussion, Closed Head Injury (CHI), Open Head Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
(Updated 08/28/2024)

AME Instructions: Address each of the following items in your in-office exam and history review:

If head injury only, no brain injury, no concussion, no neurological symptoms: **STOP**. Go to the [HEAD INJURY or BRAIN INJURY Concussion, Closed Head Injury \(CHI\), Open Head Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) Disposition Table, Row A](#).

Date of most recent brain injury _____ (if multiple injuries^)

1. Did the injury occur **within the past 5 years**?
2. **Any** of the following for **1 hour or longer**?.....
 - a. Loss of Consciousness (LOC).
 - b. Alteration of Consciousness (AOC)
 - c. Post-Traumatic Amnesia (PTA)
3. Any seizure(s) 24 hours or more after the injury?
4. Was the mechanism of injury due to high impact/penetrating forces? (ex: gunshot or severe trauma)
5. Did brain imaging (CT/MRI) reveal any **hemosiderin** or **blood in the brain** (brain contusion, intracranial bleed, hematoma, epidural hematoma, subdural hematoma) or **diffuse axonal injury** or **skull fracture** (depressed or non-depressed)? If imaging not clinically indicated and not performed, mark "NO"
6. Does this individual have any current cognitive or neurologic symptoms, any abnormalities on neurologic examination, or is the individual receiving disability benefits due to the injury?.....
7. Do you have any clinical concerns about this individual?

NO	YES*
NO	YES*
NO	YES*
NO	YES*
NO	YES*
NO	YES*
NO	YES*

If ALL items fall into the "NO"/CLEAR COLUMN, the AME may issue with notes in Block 60 which show you discussed the history of brain injury, found no positives to the screening questions, AND had no concerns.

If **ANY SINGLE ITEM** falls into the "YES"/SHADED COLUMN, the AME MUST DEFER. The AME should note what aspect caused the deferral and explain any YES answers from the shaded column. For any "YES*" items or concerns, upload the most recent detailed Clinical Progress Note and/or copies of any imaging reports (CT/MRI) which addresses these items.

- If the AME is unsure of any of the above criteria, DEFER and note in Block 60.
- ^Multiple brain injuries (e.g., football/soccer play or boxing) use **date** of most recent event, but ALL events must fall into the "No" column criteria.

This decision tool is for AME use; it does not have to be submitted to the FAA.