

Centre for Neuro Skills Presents A Case Study:

Reconstructing Life: A Carpenter's Journey

As a seasoned carpenter, C.I. depended on logic and skill to build projects to exact specifications. His world of blueprints and power tools required his utmost mental and physical acumen. But his life was upended when he fell from a scaffold and landed on concrete. He had an epidural hemorrhage, a cerebral contusion and his cranial nerves were grossly intact.

Patient Profile

Injury/Diagnosis: Fall from a scaffold/brain injury

Deficits: Problem solving, memory recall, poor math/reading skills

Employment: Carpenter/construction

Discharge Status: Returned to work immediately, promoted to Safety Director

Personalized Treatment, Constant Support

He was admitted into Centre for Neuro Skills (CNS) for postacute treatment, where staff created an aggressive treatment plan addressing memory recall, problem solving, and following a structured daily routine.

His deficits were clear: reading and math skills were at an eighth grade level and his balance and agility were impaired, which prevented him from returning to work. Bilateral gross motor coordination is also crucial in physical work, and C.I.'s scores were too low to handle complex tasks. His bilateral grip strength was weak as well, making it difficult to hold tools.

Rehabilitation seemed daunting but CNS was consistent with expectations and support. Within a month C.I.'s grip strength scored above the norm and his visual processing improved. His Independent Living Scale numbers, which measure Activities of Daily Living, behavior, and initiation, increased to 99.12 points.

This progress led to a major milestone. His case manager arranged for two days of volunteer work at Habitat for Humanity, where he performed simple carpentry. "She knew that I wanted to work, and she did whatever it took," he recalled. He

also passed the height evaluation, in which patients are assessed on ladders to determine balance, dizziness, and overall safety. Staff encouraged his every step upward as he reached the top rung, stood on the flat roof and smiled as a therapist took his photo.

Return to Work Leads to a Promotion

One month after discharge, C.I. was on the job again. He returned to the company he'd worked at for 20 years. He was promoted to foreman, then lead carpenter, and is now the Safety Director. "I'm very up on CNS," he said. "The three months I spent there were well worth it. It's the place to be." Often, C.I. visits CNS to be reminded of his transformation and to thank the staff. "They're like family," he said. "After discharge I came home and cried because I missed them so much."

To tour a CNS facility in Bakersfield, Los Angeles, Dallas or San Francisco, call 800.922.4994 or visit neuroskills.com