

Invisible TBI: The 10-Point Screening Checklist

A free excerpt from the Forensic Record Review Toolkit — the pattern that makes mild TBI and concussion cases easy for opposing experts to minimize.

Mild TBI and concussion injuries rarely show up on imaging, and they rarely show up in a five-minute conversation either. These ten indicators are where the deficit actually lives — in family reports, in work performance, in the gap between what someone can do on a standardized test and what they can actually do at 4pm on a Tuesday. Screen for these during intake and record review, before you scope a full evaluation.

COGNITIVE-COMMUNICATION CONCERNS

- ☐ Word-finding difficulty or circumlocution during conversation
- ☐ Difficulty following multi-step verbal or written instructions
- ☐ Slowed processing speed in conversation or under time pressure

FUNCTIONAL IMPACTS AFTER TBI

- ☐ New reliance on notes, alarms, or reminders for previously automatic tasks
- ☐ Fatigue that disproportionately affects cognitive/communication performance
- ☐ Difficulty managing finances, appointments, or household logistics

COMMUNICATION RELIABILITY CONCERNS

- ☐ Discrepancy between self-reported function and observed/collateral report
- ☐ Reduced insight into the extent of one's own deficits (anosognosia pattern)

WORK / COMMUNITY IMPACT INDICATORS

- ☐ Reduced hours, demotion, or job loss following injury
- ☐ Family/collateral report of personality or behavioral change

One question worth asking now: does collateral report (family, coworkers, supervisors) diverge meaningfully from the individual's self-report of function? That gap is often the single most persuasive data point in a mild-TBI case — and the one most often left undocumented.

This is 10 of 29 screening indicators.

The full Invisible TBI Red Flags Checklist — plus the Dysphagia/Aspiration Litigation Checklist, the Medical Record Chronology Timeline, and the complete case-management system — is inside the Forensic Record Review Toolkit.

→ **See the full toolkit**