

## Mum claims head injury advice is 'unacceptable'

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A mother whose 31-year-old son took his own life in 2008, has hit out at health guardians for failing to warn patients of future health risks following head injury.

Joanna Lane, whose son Christopher worked for Skipton Building Society, has criticised new guide-lines issued by NICE - the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Christopher fractured his skull after falling from a tree as a seven-year-old and his mother believes he probably developed hypopituitarism - a hidden brain **damage** which can destroy the ability to conceive but can be treated with hormone therapy.

She also discovered that head injury victims are more likely to commit sui-cide and that one in four suffer **damage** to their **pituitary** gland, the effects not showing until decades later.

Mrs Lane said: "I'm shocked to learn that NICE is proposing to bring out an update of the head injury guideline with a sample hospital discharge letter that still doesn't warn the patient that they may develop infertility, sexual difficulties, chronic fatigue, depression and obesity straight after their injury or years later and that hormone treatment can restore them to normal life.

"I feel this is absolutely unacceptable.

"There are between 500,000 and a million undiagnosed sufferers of post-traumatic hypopituitarism who are being told they have chronic fatigue syndrome and being given no treatment except counselling and exercise therapy."

She is urging people to sign her petition calling on NICE to fully inform patients of the risks following head injury.

The link is [ipetitions.com/petition/pro-protect-head-injury-survivors/](http://ipetitions.com/petition/pro-protect-head-injury-survivors/) A petition for medical professionals is at [ipetitions.com/petition/pro-professionals-head-injury-petition/](http://ipetitions.com/petition/pro-professionals-head-injury-petition/)