

ASAA School/Medical Concussion Care Plan

Patient Name: _____
DOB: _____ Age: _____
Date: _____ ID/MR# _____
Date of Injury: _____

You have been diagnosed with a concussion (also known as a mild traumatic brain injury). This personal plan is based on your symptoms and is designed to help speed your recovery. Your careful attention to it can also prevent further injury.

Rest is the key. You should not participate in any high risk activities (e.g., sports, physical education (PE), riding a bike, etc.) if you still have any of the symptoms below. It is important to limit activities that require a lot of thinking or concentration (homework, job-related activities), as this can also make your symptoms worse. If you no longer have any symptoms and believe that your concentration and thinking are back to normal, you can slowly and carefully return to your daily activities. Children and teenagers will need help from their parents, teachers, coaches, or athletic trainers to help monitor their recovery and return to activities.

Today the following symptoms are present (circle or check). _____ No reported symptoms				
Physical		Thinking	Emotional	Sleep
Headaches	Sensitivity to light	Feeling mentally foggy	Irritability	Drowsiness
Nausea	Sensitivity to noise	Problems concentrating	Sadness	Sleeping more than usual
Fatigue	Numbness/Tingling	Problems remembering	Feeling more emotional	Sleeping less than usual
Visual problems	Vomiting	Feeling more slowed down	Nervousness	Trouble falling asleep
Balance Problems	Dizziness			

RED FLAGS: Call your doctor or go to your emergency department if you suddenly experience any of the following			
Headaches that worsen	Look very drowsy, can't be awakened	Can't recognize people or places	Unusual behavior change
Seizures	Repeated vomiting	Increasing confusion	Increasing irritability
Neck pain	Slurred speech	Weakness or numbness in arms or legs	Loss of consciousness

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RETURNING TO DAILY ACTIVITIES

1. Get lots of rest. Be sure to get enough sleep at night- no late nights. Keep the same bedtime weekdays and weekends.
2. Take daytime naps or rest breaks when you feel tired or fatigued.
3. Limit physical activity as well as activities that require a lot of thinking or concentration. These activities can make symptoms worse. • Physical activity includes PE, sports practices, weight-training, running, exercising, heavy lifting, etc. • Thinking and concentration activities (e.g., homework, classwork load, job-related activity).
4. Drink lots of fluids and eat carbohydrates or protein to main appropriate blood sugar levels.
5. As symptoms decrease, you may begin to gradually return to your daily activities. If symptoms worsen or return, lessen your activities, then try again to increase your activities gradually.
6. During recovery, it is normal to feel frustrated and sad when you do not feel right and you can't be as active as usual.
7. Repeated evaluation of your symptoms is recommended to help guide recovery.

RETURNING TO SPORTS

1. **You should NEVER return to play if you still have ANY symptoms** - (Be sure that you do not have any symptoms at rest and while doing any physical activity and/or activities that require a lot of thinking or concentration.)
2. Be sure that the PE teacher, coach, and/or athletic trainer are aware of your injury and symptoms.
3. It is normal to feel frustrated, sad and even angry because you cannot return to sports right away. With any injury, a full recovery will reduce the chances of getting hurt again. It is better to miss one or two games than the whole season.

The following are recommended at the present time:

- Do not return to PE class at this time
- Return to PE class
- Do not return to sports practices/games at this time
- Gradual return to sports practices under the supervision of an appropriate health care provider (e.g., athletic trainer, coach, or physical education teacher).
 - Return to play should occur in gradual steps beginning with aerobic exercise only to increase your heart rate (e.g., stationary cycle); moving to increasing your heart rate with movement (e.g., running); then adding controlled contact if appropriate; and finally return to sports competition.
 - Pay careful attention to your symptoms and your thinking and concentration skills at each stage of activity. Move to the next level of activity only if you do not experience any symptoms at the each level. If your symptoms return, let your health care provider know, return to the first level, and restart the program gradually.

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GRADUAL RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

Day 0 - 24 hours without concussion symptoms during physical and cognitive rest.

- **If no return of symptoms, then:**

Day 1 - 15 Minutes of Light Aerobic Activity (Walk, Exercise Bike, Etc).

- Trial half day school. No homework. Not tests.

- **If no return of symptoms, then:**

Day 2 - 30 Minutes of Light to Moderate Aerobic Activity.

- Trial full day school. No homework. No tests.

- **If no return of symptoms, then:**

Day 3 - 30 Minutes of Moderate to Heavy Aerobic Activity

- Full day school. Regular homework assignments. No testing.

- **If no return of symptoms, then:**

Day 4 - 30 Minutes of Heavy Aerobic Activity and 15 Minutes of Resistance Exercise (Push-ups, Sit-ups, Weight Lifting).

- Full day school. Regular homework. Regular testing.

- **If no return of symptoms, then:**

Day 5 - Return to Practice for **NON CONTACT Limited Participation.**

- **If no return of symptoms, then:**

Day 6 - Return to Full Practice WITH CONTACT.

- **If no return of symptoms, then:**

Day 7 - Return to Competition

This referral plan is based on today's evaluation:

____ Return to this office. Date/Time _____

____ Refer to: Neurosurgery____ Neurology____ Sports Medicine____ Physiatrist____ Other _____

____ Refer for neuropsychological testing

____ Other _____

ASAA School/Medical Concussion Care Plan completed by:

Signature _____ Print Name _____ Date _____