

August 29th, 2016

Re: Winnipeg AAA Hockey Concussion Care Protocol for 2016-17 Season

Winnipeg AAA Hockey Players, Coaches, Managers, Trainers and Parents:

In the event that a Winnipeg AAA Hockey player is suspected to have sustained a concussion or experiences concussion-like symptoms, the following procedures must be followed:

- 1.) When a player is suspected of sustaining a serious head or spinal injury during a hockey game or practice, an ambulance should be called immediately to transfer the patient to Children's Hospital Emergency Department for further evaluation. After initial evaluation, patients with a concussion should be referred to the Pan Am Concussion Program.
- 2.) If the player develops symptoms of a concussion during a hockey game or practice, they must be evaluated immediately at the Children's Hospital Emergency Department or the nearest emergency room. If they are diagnosed with a concussion, they should be referred to the Pan Am Concussion Program.
- 3.) If the player develops delayed concussion symptoms (several hours to several days later), the child's parent must immediately contact the Winnipeg AAA Hockey Concussion Program Coordinator, Kelsey McCuspey, at wpgaaaconcussion@hotmail.com to facilitate a direct referral to the Pan Am Concussion Program.

In the event that a Winnipeg AAA hockey player experiences a suspected concussion, and a trained athletic therapist or physician is present, the initial sideline concussion evaluation should be carried out using the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool 3(SCAT3) to document initial neurological status. Regardless of SCAT3 testing results, all children and adolescents with a suspected concussion must be evaluated by a physician and receive written medical clearance by the Pan Am Concussion Program prior to returning to competitive hockey game play.

In any of the above scenarios, a member of the coaching staff must contact Kelsey McCuspey immediately to advise that a player has undergone concussion assessment. Kelsey will contact the Pan Am Concussion Program to advise a player has gone for assessment and arrange follow-up.

If you should have any other concerns or questions, please feel free to visit us at www.panamclinic.org. Further contact information and instructions about how pediatricians, family doctors, and emergency room doctors can refer patients to the Pan Am Concussion Program will be posted on our website.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Ellis MD FRCSC, Medical Director, Pan Am Concussion Program

Legal Disclaimer: The role of the Winnipeg AAA Hockey Concussion Program Coordinator in no way is intended to provide medical advice but to merely facilitate direct referrals of hockey players participating in the Winnipeg AAA program to the medical professionals at the Pan Am Concussion Program.