

August 11th, 2015

Re: Concussion care for Football Manitoba players

Dear Football Manitoba coaches and trainers,

In the event that a Football Manitoba player experiences a suspected concussion, we recommend the following procedures be taken:

- 1.) If the player has a suspected serious head or spine injury during a football game or practice- an ambulance should be called immediately to transfer the patient to Children's Hospital Emergency Department for evaluation. After initial evaluation, patients with a concussion that require further follow-up will be referred to the Pan Am Concussion Program.
- 2.) If the player develops symptoms of a concussion during a football game or practice but they are deemed to be non-life threatening, they should be evaluated immediately at the Children's Hospital Emergency Department or the nearest emergency room. If they are diagnosed with a concussion and further follow-up is required, they will be referred to the Pan Am Concussion Program.
- 3.) If the player develops delayed (days later) symptoms of a concussion, patients can be referred to the Pan Am Concussion Program following initial consultation with any pediatrician, family doctor, or emergency room physician.

In the event that a Football Manitoba player experiences a suspected concussion and a trained athletic therapist or physician is present, we recommend that initial sideline concussion evaluation 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 should be evaluated by a physician and receive written medical clearance prior to returning to competitive football game play.

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