

Concussion Algorithm for Contracted Schools with Northside Trained ATC

Athletic trainer serves as initial point of management/identification on field

Probable concussion: Provide concussion clinic contact information to athlete (or ATC may call directly) to schedule initial evaluation.

Suspected but unconfirmed concussion: May administer ImPACT testing within 48 hours and consult with concussion clinic (if in doubt, athlete withheld from sports and referred).

Athletic trainer provides athlete and family with Northside prepared handout outlining basic behavioral management approach and educational information regarding concussion.

1) Certain conditions/risk factors prompt mandatory evaluation by non-operative sports medicine physician, within 48 hours, for management of non-concussion contributing factors, to rule-out a more serious neurological issue, or for cases in which medications likely necessary. These include the following:

- LOC >20 seconds
- Persisting Neurologic Sx (e.g., focal neurologic deficits, pupillary asymmetry, post-traumatic seizure activity) after concussion
- Persisting Neck pain
- Concussion HX of >3
- Hx of prolonged recovery >4 weeks from prior concussion
- Poorly controlled migraines

Athletes seen for initial evaluation by concussion clinic neuropsychologist within 2-4 days (slots in schedule reserved for contract schools)

2) Otherwise, neuropsychologist will evaluate patient and make clinical determination regarding necessary referrals. These may include:

- Vestibular therapy for vestibular or mild-to-moderate oculomotor deficits
- Neuro-optometry for more severe oculomotor dysfunction
- Exertion with ATC to assess response to exercise and progression through exertion protocol.
- Physician for medical consultation
- By end of clinic day, neuropsychologist will staff patients requiring referrals with supervising physician.

Athletes will follow up as indicated based on neuropsychology's clinical evaluation, along with any subsequent physician evaluation that may be indicated. Results communicated to ATC as needed.

Athletes recovering rapidly (asymptomatic in 7 to 10 days): Team ATC may contact the concussion clinic and if indicated, will administer ImPACT testing prior to patient presenting to concussion clinic for clearance appointment.

Athletes with more protracted recovery: Keep all follow-up appointments with concussion clinic as scheduled.

Concussion clinic communicates with ATC as necessary regarding management (e.g., exertion protocol).

Once symptom free

Follow up with concussion clinic neuropsychologist for evaluation, ImPACT testing (if not administered by ATC), and potential clearance. Neuropsychologist, who is under the supervision of a sports medicine physician, will provide clearance and associated documentation.