## PEDIATRIC MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (mTBI)

# **CONCUSSION DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS**

### A CONCUSSION IS A BRAIN INJURY AND THE BRAIN NEEDS REST TO HEAL

THESE ARE TYPICAL AFTER A CONCUSSION:









RETURN TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FOR:



Severe or worsening headaches



Seizures



DO:

- Advance diet as tolerated
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Reduce physical activity (sports, play, etc.)
- Reduce mental stimulation (TV, phone/tablet, computer, video games, heavy reading)
- Arrange for extra time to complete schoolwork
- Follow up with primary healthcare provider

#### DON'T:

- Play sports at home or school until symptoms are gone, you have completed all recovery steps, and you are cleared by a healthcare provider
- Use electronic devices (TV, phone/tablet, computer, video games) during the resting step
- Advance to next recovery step until all symptoms are gone (no headaches, nausea, dizziness, not able to concentrate)

#### STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE RETURING TO PLAY/FULL ACTIVITY:

- Returning to full activity is done step-by-step and is different for each patient
- Returning too soon to activities may lead to delayed recovery time and worsened symptoms

**DO NOT** advance to the next step until you are free of symptoms, including headache, nausea, dizziness, fatique, emotional distress, or the inability to concentrate.



1. Rest at least 1-2 days



**2.** Return to school



**3.** Begin light aerobic activity



**4.** Get cleared for limited play/practice by healthcare provider

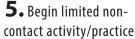


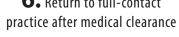


**6.** Return to full-contact



7. Return to play/full activity





This information sheet is provided for informational purposes only. ENA is not providing medical advice. The instructions and information provided herein is not intended to replace the judgment of a medical practitioner or healthcare provider based on the clinical circumstances of a particular patient.

The information included herein reflects current knowledge at the time of publication and is subject to change without notice as advances emerge and recommendations change. ENA makes no warranty, guarantee or other representation, express or implied, with respect to the validity or sufficiency of any information provided and assumes no liability for any injury arising out of or related to the use of or reliance on the information contained herein.

#### REFERENCES:

Anderson, P. (2015). Strict rest after concussion offers no additional benefit. Retrieved from http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/837710\_pri Elbin, R.J., Aufrinko, A., Schatz, P., French, J., Henry, L., Burkhart, S., Kontos, A.P. (2016). Removal from play after concussion and recovery time

Laun, I.A., Annima, A., Anzacz, T., Herito, J., Herito, K., Gurin, H., S., Montos, K.F. (2010). Returning in pay Pediatrics, 138(3), doi: 10.1542/peds.2016-0910 Halstead, M.E., McNovy, K., Devore, C.D., Carl, R., Lee, M., & Logan, K. (2013). Returning to learning follow 948-957. doi: 10.1542/peds.2013-2867

Harmon, K.G., Drezner, J.A., Gammons, M., Guskiewicz, K.M., Halstead, M., Jerring, Roberts, W.O. (2013), American Medical Society for Sports Medicine position statement: Concussion in sport. British Journal of Sports Medicine 47(1), 15-26. doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2012-091941
Selekman, J. Concussion in Children: Momma don't let your kids grow up to play football (2016, June). Powerpoint presentation at the Pediatric Nursing Conference in Philadelphia, PA

Reproducible for patient use

