

## **Diagnosing and Managing Concussion Tool**

This tool has been developed to support family physicians and nurse practitioners in consistently diagnosing and managing concussion in adult patients (≥ 18 years).

**Section A: Concussion overview** 

pg.1 Clinical definition

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Appendix A: Pharmacotherapy guidance

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## **Section A:** Concussion overview

A concussion is an acute neurophysiological event related to blunt impact or mechanical injury applied to the head, neck, or body, with transmitting forces to the brain. 1,2,3,4,5

- Although complex, concussion is manageable in a primary care setting.
- There is no perfect diagnostic test or marker for concussion.3
- Although the terms concussion and mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) are often used interchangeably, they are different conditions along a continuum.<sup>3</sup> Evidence of intracranial injury or a persistent neurologic deficit are indicative of a mTBI.<sup>1,4</sup>

## Clarifying common misconceptions about concussions

- A concussion does not require a direct blow to the head. Concussion can be caused by impulsive forces acting elsewhere on the body transmitting to the head – such as sudden acceleration, rotation, deceleration (whiplash) or by multiple sub-concussive hits.<sup>1,3,4</sup>
- A concussion may or may not involve a loss of consciousness. A majority of patients do not lose consciousness after sustaining a concussion. Do not rule out concussion in patients who have not lost consciousness.<sup>3,4</sup>

## Section B: General treatment approach

This section provides detailed information to support the provider in diagnosing and managing concussion in adults. Fillable forms linked to each section are included in <u>Section C</u> of this tool.

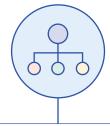


## **Assessment and diagnosis:**

Establish diagnosis of concussion by taking the patient's history and assessing signs and symptoms. Rule out more severe forms of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Assessment and diagnosis (pg. 2)

Diagnostic assessment (pg. 5)



## **Management and recovery** planning:

Based on assessment, develop a tailored management and recovery plan with the patient.

Management and recovery planning

Return to activities (pg. 7)



## Monitoring and follow-up:

Track symptom resolution, refine medical clearance, and manage persistent symptoms.

Tools and mental health assessments (pg 2)

Monitoring and follow-up (pg. 4)

Symptom monitoring log (pg. 9)

## Section B: General treatment plan (continued)

## **Assessment and diagnosis**

The information in this section supports Section C: Diagnostic Assessment Form.

The purpose of the diagnostic assessment is to establish diagnosis of concussion by ruling out more severe forms of TBI, cervical spine injuries and medical and neurological conditions that can present with concussion-like symptoms. In many cases, a concussion may be diagnosed as a result of an examination of the patient's history as there may be a delay between injury and presentation to a provider. Note: Some individuals may not know they have sustained a concussion, and only seek medical care when symptoms do not resolve.

Assessment at presentation <sup>1,4</sup>			
Take a thorough medical history and assess the patient's clinical status	<ul> <li>Current symptoms and health concerns</li> <li>Setting and mechanism of injury</li> <li>Immediate symptoms after injury</li> <li>Co-occurring injuries</li> <li>Pre-existing medical conditions, including mental health conditions.</li> <li>Previous concussion history</li> <li>Contributing psychosocial factors (have patient complete PHQ-9<sup>18</sup> and GAD-7<sup>19</sup>)</li> <li>Course of symptoms since time of injury</li> </ul>		
2. Perform a physical exam	<ul><li>Mental status and cognition</li><li>Physical status</li><li>Full neurological evaluation</li></ul>		
3. Exclude more severe brain injury	Determine the need for urgent neuroimaging. Use the <u>Canadian CT Head Rule</u> or the <u>ONF Assessment/Diagnosis Algorithm</u> to determine if neuroimaging is clinically indicated. Note: Use <u>ONF Guide to Neurological and Musculoskeletal Exam</u> .		

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Neuroimaging is not recommended to diagnose concussion.<sup>4</sup> When it is clinically indicated, the need for neuroimaging should be determined using the <u>Canadian CT Head Rule</u>.<sup>6</sup> CT scans are the most appropriate to rule out acute intracranial hemorrhage.<sup>1</sup>

	Caused by direct or indirect force
	Rapid onset of neurological function impairment
Diagnostic criteria for concussion <sup>3</sup>	May exhibit neuropathological changes; for example, memory or orientation.
	Results in a range of clinical signs and symptoms that may not have involved loss of consciousness
	Symptoms cannot be explained by drug, alcohol, medication use, other injuries or comorbidities

## Resources for use immediately post-injury:

- · <u>Clasgow Coma Scale</u><sup>11</sup>: A scoring scale for eye-opening as well as motor and verbal responses to objectively measure level of consciousness.
- Sport Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT-5)<sup>13</sup>: Combines aspects of several concussion tools including the Post-Concussion Symptom Scale into eight components designed to assess concussion symptoms, cognition and neurological signs. Utility decreases significantly 3-5 days after injury.<sup>3</sup>

## Resources for use in assessment, diagnosis and management:

- · Canadian CT Head Rule: Algorithm for assessing severity risk in patients with head injury.
- Acute Concussion Evaluation (ACE)<sup>15</sup>: A physician/clinician form used to evaluate individuals for concussion. Can be used serially to track symptom recovery over time.
- Post-Concussion Symptom Scale (PCSS)<sup>16</sup>: A 21-item self-report measure recording symptom severity using a 7-point Likert scale. Endorsed by the International Symposium for Concussion in Sport. Can be used serially to track symptom recovery over time.
- Rivermead Post-Concussion Symptoms Questionnaire (RPCSQ)<sup>17</sup>: A 16-item self-report measure of symptom severity asking patients to
  compare presence and severity of symptoms experienced within the past 24 hours relative to experience of the same symptoms prior to injury.
- Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9): A screening tool to assist in the diagnosis of depression and is used to quantify symptoms to monitor severity.
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item (GAD-7): A screening tool to assist in the diagnosis of anxiety and is used to quanitfy symptoms to
  monitor severity.
- <u>Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI)</u>: Fatigue scale.

## Section B: General treatment plan (continued)

## **Management and recovery planning**

### Management strategy

- Relative rest for the first 1-3 days.<sup>1,3,5,8</sup> Avoid over-emphasizing rest. Current evidence indicates that regardless of symptomatic status, activity (as tolerated) is more likely to speed up rather than delay recovery.<sup>1,10</sup>
- Emphasize reassurance and self-management, and set patient expectations for recovery. Patients will not be symptom-free when they start to reintegrate activities and may be anxious about when they will feel better.<sup>1</sup>
- Normalize symptoms and self-management, and set patient expectations for recovery.
- Advise the patient to avoid high-risk activities while symptomatic.
- Advise the patient to gradually perform every day activities within 3 days of concussion.<sup>1,3,8</sup>
- Emphasize non-pharmacological interventions.<sup>3</sup> There is limited evidence
  to support the use of pharmacotherapy. Avoid prescribing medications that
  mask symptoms or changes in mental status.<sup>1</sup> For more information about
  pharmacotherapy, see <u>Appendix A.</u>
- Follow-up with the patient within 7-14 days after the diagnosis of a concussion.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Avoid**

- Do not adjust treatment strategy based on mechanism of injury.<sup>4</sup>
- Do not refer to a specialist clinic unless symptom persistence is prolonged.
  - Note: There is no consistent definition of prolonged or persistent symptoms in the literature. Depending on the source, prolonged or persistent symptoms refer to those lasting from beyond 2 weeks to beyond 3 months.<sup>1,2,3,4,5,7</sup> Clinicians should use their judgment on a case-by-case basis.
- Do not delay return to social and professional roles more than medically necessary. Delayed return can result in demoralization and worsened emotional symptoms.<sup>1</sup>

# (°°°)

## **Talking Points**

## Emphasize non-pharmacological treatment, self-management and goal-setting.

"You are the best person to monitor your daily symptoms, with help from your family and friends. Use the <u>Daily Symptom log</u> to record how you're feeling. If your symptoms get worse, remember to step back activities or check the <u>Red Flags</u>. We will go over this log at our next appointment to see how your symptoms have been progressing."

## Developing a recovery plan

Recovery is defined functionally as a return to normal activities including work, play, school, and sport.<sup>3</sup> Full recovery is generally expected within 3 months post-concussion. However, not all patients will recover rapidly with a minimum of 15% of patients experiencing persistent symptoms beyond 3 months.<sup>1</sup>

Complete the Return to Activities form following the steps below.

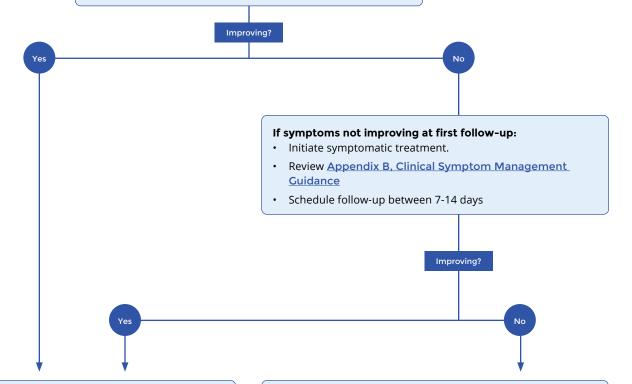
Complete the Return to Activities form following the steps below.					
Identify medical restrictions and limitations	Discuss gradual return to activities after initial rest period	Set goals and timelines for return to work and school	Set date of follow-up appointment	Provide patient with completed Return to Activities form and other resources	
Medical restrictions are high-risk impairments that could result in harm to the patient or others (e.g. no work at heights, no ladder work, no work with heavy equipment, etc.).      Medical limitations are functional impairments that do not pose risk or harm to the patient or others, but would interfere with the patient's ability to perform tasks (e.g. limit screen time, limit dual screen usage, etc.)      Medical restrictions and limitations require accommodation from work and school.      Medical clearance – the decision to lift these restrictions – can only be done by a physician or nurse practitioner. See ONF Return-to-Activity / Work / School Considerations for more details.	Review symptoms patient may experience while adding in activities. Patients should expect not to be symptom-free when they start to reintegrate activities, and may be anxious about when they will feel better.¹     Educate patient about red flags.     Provide patient with selfmanagement resources.  Section D. Patient resources  Other resources:     Parkwood Pacing Graphs     EMPWR Foundation. Return-to-Activities toolkit	Some patients can return to work or school soon after injury; some require more time. Base timelines on severity of symptoms and consultation with the patient.¹  Goal attainment resource:     Goal attainment scaling  Return to work resources:     ACE Return to Work plan     Vocational Evaluation     Return to Work     Considerations algorithm:  Return to school resources:     Return to Post-Secondary     Activities     Return to Post-Secondary     Activities algorithm     Accommodation for students with persistent symptoms	Set date of follow-up after initial assessment.	Complete Return to     Activities Form     Provide Patient Symptom     Monitoring Log     Review and provide     patient with appropriate     patient resources.	

## Section B: General treatment plan (continued)

## Monitoring and follow-up

# At follow-up:1. Assess symptoms using validated scale selected during diagnostic assessment.

- 2. Review patient Symptom monitoring log
- 3. Have patient complete PHQ-9 and GAD-71
- **4.** Approve medical clearance when appropriate. Medical clearance decisions for return to activity can only be made by a physician or nurse practitioner. See below for medical criteria guidance.<sup>2,5</sup>



## If symptoms improving at follow-up:

- Encourage patient to continue returning to regular activities, increasing intensity and duration as appropriate.
- If patient has returned to school, work, or sports, discuss how transition has affected symptoms.
- If patient has not returned to school, work, or sports, develop timeline for return.
- Assess medical restrictions and limitations and adjust as needed.
- Provide medical clearance for return to activities as appropriate.
- · Schedule follow-up if clinically indicated.

## If symptoms not improving 4 weeks post concussion:

- Initiate bi-weekly follow-up schedule to monitor worsening or new symptoms.
- Direct management toward specific symptoms while considering etiology, elapsed time from injury, and symptom interaction. See <u>Appendix B, Clinical Symptom</u> <u>Management Guidance</u>.
- Review the patient's use of prescription medications, overthe-counter medications and supplements. See <u>Appendix A</u>. <u>Pharmacotherapy Guidance</u>.
- Review the patient's use of alcohol, cannabis and other recreational drugs.
- Consider re-evaluation and additional diagnostic assessment.

Medical clearance decisions for return to activity can only be made by a physician or nurse practitioner. However, patients should be considered recovered when they are<sup>5</sup>:

- At pre-injury state (asymptomatic or with pre-injury conditions)
- Able to tolerate full-time work, school and/or activities without symptoms
- Have a normal neurological examination

Sections:	A	<u>B</u>	C	D	References	
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## Section C: Patient encounter forms

PT NAME	DATE	DOB	AGE

## Form: Diagnostic assessment

Use <u>Section B. Assessment and Diagnosis</u> for support in completing this form.

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1. History					
Injury description:					
Date, time and setting of inj	ury:				
Time since injury:					
Reporter (patient, parent, co	oach, partner, etc.):				
Type of injury:	☐ MVC ☐ Assault	☐ Pedestrian-MVC☐ Sports	☐ Fall ☐ Polytrauma:		
	□ Other:				
Location of impact:	☐ Indirect force☐ Neck	☐ Frontal ☐ Occipital	☐ Temporal L / R☐ Parietal L / R		
Course of recovery since inj	ury:				
History of Concussion					
Does patient have history o	f concussion(s)? How many?:				
Date of last concussion:					
Longest symptom duration:					
Did patient have a complete	e resolution of all symptoms?:				
Has it required the same fo	rce to cause subsequent concussion	ons?:			
Notes:					
Co-occurring conditions					
☐ History of sleep disorder		<ul><li>Hearing impairment</li><li>Co-existing orthopedic i</li></ul>	niury		
	☐ History of headache/migraine ☐ Seizure disorders				
	□ Depression or anxiety disorder □ Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) □ Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder				
☐ Suicidality	□ Learning disabilities				
	☐ Substance use disorders				
□ Other:					
Notes:					

## Section C: Patient encounter forms (continued)

■ Dizziness

■ Vision problems

**□** Fatigue

2. Physical exam						
Perform a physical exam to assess:						
☐ Vital signs	☐ Cranial nerves	☐ Gait and coordination	Cervical spine exam			
☐ Mental status and cognition	<ul><li>Extremity tone, strength and reflexes</li></ul>	☐ Scalp/basal skull fracture	<ul><li>Any other exams identified during patient history</li></ul>			
<b>Exclude more severe forms of TB</b> If any of the following indications a		oncussion and follow practice for m	noderate to severe TBI.			
☐ Evidence of an intracranial	☐ Dilation of one or both pupils	s □ Weakness/numbness in th	e extremities			
injury or skull fracture	☐ Loss of coordination	Convulsions or seizures				
	☐ Double vision	☐ Increasing confusion, restlessness or agitation				
	☐ Repeated vomiting	☐ Slurred speech				
Initial Diagnosis/Assessment of A	Adult mTBI (CT scan indication)					
Signs and symptoms of concussi	on:					
Physical		Behavioural/Emotional	Cognitive			
□ Headache	☐ Trouble falling asleep	□ Irritability	☐ Feeling "slow"			
□ Nausea	■ Excessive sleep	■ Sadness	☐ Feeling "foggy"			
□ Vomiting	☐ Loss of sleep	□ Nervousness	Difficulty concentrating			
☐ Balance problems	□ Drowsiness	■ More emotional	■ Difficulty remembering			

■ Numbness

☐ Light sensitivity

■ Noise sensitivity

Scores		Notes:
PHQ-9	Date:         Score:           Date:         Score:           Date:         Score:	
GAD-7	Date:         Score:           Date:         Score:           Date:         Score:	
<u>PCSS</u>	Date:         Score:           Date:         Score:           Date:         Score:	

## Section C: Patient encounter forms (continued)

PT NAME	DATE	DOB	AGE

## Form: Return to activities



## **Talking Points**

## Define restrictions and limitations.

"There are things your concussion will make it harder for you to do."

"If doing certain things with your symptoms has the possibility to cause harm to yourself or others, it will be better for everyone if you give yourself some more time to recover until I give you medical clearance."

"If doing certain things with your symptoms will seriously impact your ability to do that activity, performance of that activity should be limited until symptoms improve."

## Medical restrictions and limitations

Restrictions:

**Limitations:** 



## **Gradually returning to activities**

The purpose of a gradual approach is to add activities slowly to see how they affect the patient's symptoms. A slow return to regular activities will help speed recovery. Reassure the patient they will not be symptom-free immediately once they start to reintegrate activities. Let the patient know that they may experience some discomfort as they aim to advance in activities. If symptoms do not worsen concerningly, then the patient can increase duration or intensity of given activity.

A 24-hour period is the recommended time frame for each step. If symptoms worsen substantially with the addition of a new activity or the increase in intensity of an activity, advise the patien to step back the activity to a lower level that previously felt manageable for another 24 hours before trying again.

If your patients experience any of these Red Flag symptoms, use your clinical discretion to advise them to visit the emergency department.

	Physical	Thinking	Emotional	Sleep
Red Flags. Visit the Emergency Department if suddenly experiencing any of these symptoms.	<ul> <li>Worsening headaches</li> <li>Seizures</li> <li>Neck pain</li> <li>Repeated vomiting</li> <li>Weakness/numbness in arms or legs</li> <li>Loss of consciousness</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increasing confusion</li> <li>Slurred speech</li> <li>Cannot recognize people or places</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Unusual behaviour change</li> <li>Increasing irritability</li> </ul>	Cannot be awakened

## An example of gradually returning to activities

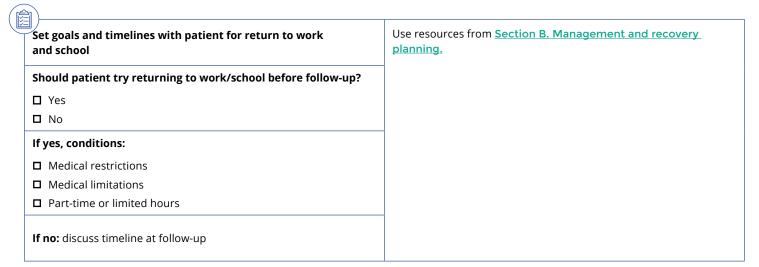
	Rest period	Activity day 1	Activity day 2	Activity day 3	Activity day 4	Activity day 5
Screen time	None	Minimal	Minimal, but increased	Increased	Near Normal	Normal

For more examples of slowly returning to activities, please visit **EMPWR**.

	Physical	Thinking	Emotional	Sleep
Common symptoms during recovery	<ul> <li>Headache</li> <li>Nausea</li> <li>Fatigue</li> <li>Dizziness</li> <li>Vomiting</li> <li>Balance problems</li> <li>Sensitivity to light or noise</li> <li>Visual problems</li> <li>Numbness/tingling</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Feeling mentally foggy</li> <li>Problems concentrating</li> <li>Problems remembering</li> <li>Feeling more slowed down</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Irritability</li><li>Sadness</li><li>Feeling more emotional</li><li>Nervousness</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Drowsiness</li> <li>Sleeping more than usual</li> <li>Sleeping less than usual</li> <li>Trouble falling asleep</li> </ul>

Sections:	A	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	D	References
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## Section C: Patient encounter forms (continued)







- Consider sharing a copy of this form with patient
- Consider printing a copy of the <u>Symptom Monitoring</u> <u>Log (pg. 9)</u>
- Consider printing a copy of the <u>Patient resources</u> (pg 10)

Sections:	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>References</u>	

# **Symptom monitoring log**

Date (D/M/YY)	Time	Activity (e.g. work, class, meeting, homework, cooking, driving, etc.)	Alone? (Yes or no) If yes, number of people present	Symptomatic? (Yes or No) If yes, list symptoms	Symptom intensity: 1 = low intensity 6 = highest intensity

## Section D: Additional resources

## **Patient resources**

## Self-management

[i] Sunnybrook Mild Traumatic Brain Injury/Concussion Handbook: <a href="https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=bsp-brain-injury-education">https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=bsp-brain-injury-education</a>
Subsections include:

- · Concussions and getting better: https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=bsp-about-concussions
- · Toolkit for Recovery: https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=bsp-understanding-concussion
- Personal Recovery Plan: <a href="https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=bsp-concussion-recovery-plan">https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=bsp-concussion-recovery-plan</a>
- [ii] Post-Injury Advice Card (ONF):
- Short version: <a href="https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-1-4-2.pdf">https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-1-4-2.pdf</a>
- Long version: <a href="https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-1-3.pdf">https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-1-3.pdf</a>
- [iii] Concussion Do's and Don'ts: The first few days of recovery: A hand-out for patients with reminders on what to do and what not to do for individuals who are suffering from symptoms of concussion.

  Available from: http://concussionsontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ONF-DoDonts-Tearaway-WEB-1.pdf
- [iv] Concussion Care Guide (St. Joseph's Health Care London): A hand-out that patients can print out and keep with them as a resource for the first 48 hours after a concussion. It includes topics such as driving after displaying concussion symptoms, when to seek medical attention and how to return to the patient's normal levels of activity.

  Available from: <a href="https://www.sjhc.london.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/abi\_concussion\_care\_guide07.26.17.pdf">https://www.sjhc.london.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/abi\_concussion\_care\_guide07.26.17.pdf</a>

## Education, legal issues and community resources

- [v] Concussion Frequently Asked Questions FAQs (Ontario Brain Injury Association): A list of seven commonly asked questions by patients including legal issues surrounding concussions. Available from: <a href="http://obia.ca/concussion-resources/">http://obia.ca/concussion-resources/</a>
- [vi] Ontario Brain Injury Association Helpline (OBIA): A toll-free helpline available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm for patients to speak with someone personally. Helpline number: 1-800-263-5404.
- [vii] Online Concussion Support Group (OBIA): A free online support group (registration required) for patients living or having lived with concussion symptoms to share their feelings and experiences. The group runs for 60 minutes per week over eight weeks and is available via computer or phone. Registration here: <a href="http://obia.ca/online-concussion-support-group/">http://obia.ca/online-concussion-support-group/</a>
- [viii] Regional Acquired Brain Injury Program: Information for Families (St. Joseph's Health Care London): A resource for concussion patient's family members on how they can help their loved ones.

  Available from: <a href="https://www.sihc.london.on.ca/regional-acquired-brain-injury-program/families">https://www.sihc.london.on.ca/regional-acquired-brain-injury-program/families</a>
- [ix] What Brain Injury Survivors Want You to Know (Brainline): A resource for patients, families and friends on communicating with brain injury survivors. Available from: <a href="https://www.brainline.org/article/lost-found-what-brain-injury-survivors-want-you-know">https://www.brainline.org/article/lost-found-what-brain-injury-survivors-want-you-know</a>
- [x] Personal Stories (Concussion Legacy Foundation): Survivors of concussion share their own personal stories about having lived or living with concussion symptoms. Available from: <a href="https://www.concussionfoundation.ca/personal-stories">https://www.concussionfoundation.ca/personal-stories</a>.

### **Prevention**

- [xi] Protecting your brain from having another injury (Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre): Information about preventing future concussions. Available from: <a href="https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=bsp-concussion-protect-brain">https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=bsp-concussion-protect-brain</a>
- [xii] Heads Up: Preventing Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (MBTI) (Brain Injury Canada): A list of preventative tactics patients can do to prevent future concussions. This resource includes some questions to ask primary care providers regarding prevention and returning to patient's baseline activities. Available from: <a href="https://www.braininjurycanada.ca/2010/05/31/heads-up-preventing-mild-traumatic-brain-injury-mtbi/">https://www.braininjurycanada.ca/2010/05/31/heads-up-preventing-mild-traumatic-brain-injury-mtbi/</a>

Sections: A B C D References

## Section D: Additional resources (continued)

#### **Provider resources:**

## Point-of-care tools and care pathways

- [i] Initial Diagnosis/Assessment of Adult mTBI CT scan indication algorithm (ONF).

  Access at: <a href="https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/algorithms/algorithm-1-1.pdf">https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/algorithms/algorithm-1-1.pdf</a>
- [ii] Canadian CT Head Rule: Algorithm for assessing severity risk in patients with head injury. Access at: <a href="https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/figures/figure-1-1.png">https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/figures/figure-1-1.png</a>
- [iii] Standards for Post-Concussion care: From diagnosis to the interdisciplinary concussion clinic, a tool for clinicians supporting the full clinical course of concussion. Includes concussion care pathway, referral indicators, symptom management, and patient/family education resources. http://onf.org/documents/standards-for-post-concussion-care
- [iv] Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9): A screening tool to assist in the diagnosis of depression and is used to quanitfy symptoms to monitor severity. Access at: <a href="https://www.mdcalc.com/phq-9-patient-health-questionnaire-9">https://www.mdcalc.com/phq-9-patient-health-questionnaire-9</a>
- [v] Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item (GAD-7): A screening tool to assist in the diagnosis of anxiety and is used to quanitfy symptoms to monitor severity. Access at: <a href="https://www.mdcalc.com/gad-7-general-anxiety-disorder-7">https://www.mdcalc.com/gad-7-general-anxiety-disorder-7</a>
- [vi] BNI (Barrow Neurological Institute) Fatigue scale. Access at: <a href="https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-11-1.pdf">https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-11-1.pdf</a>
- [vii] Guide to Neurological and Musculoskeletal Exam (ONF). Access at: <a href="https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-3-4.pdf">https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-3-4.pdf</a>

## Patient support in return to work, school and activities

- [viii] ACE Return to Work Care Plan:
  - Access at: https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-12-5.pdf
- [ix] ACE Return to School Care Plan:
  Access at: <a href="https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-12-6.pdf">https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-12-6.pdf</a>

## **Clinical Practice Guidelines**

- [x] Guideline for Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury & Persistent Symptoms, 3rd Edition [Internet]. Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation; 2018. Available from: <a href="http://onf.org/documents/guidelines-for-concussion-mtbi-persistent-symptoms-third-edition">http://onf.org/documents/guidelines-for-concussion-mtbi-persistent-symptoms-third-edition</a>
- [xi] Standards for Post-Concussion care: From diagnosis to the interdisciplinary concussion clinic, a tool for clinicians supporting the full clinical course of concussion. Includes concussion care pathway, referral indicators, symptom management, and patient/family education resources. http://onf.org/documents/standards-for-post-concussion-care
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#### Other resources

- [xv] The Concussion Awareness Training Tool: An accredited medical professional course designed to provide medical professionals with the information they need to provide evidence-based care for their patients who have sustained a concussion.

  Available here: <a href="https://cattonline.com/medical-professional-course/">https://cattonline.com/medical-professional-course/</a>
- [xvi] Specialized Concussion Clinics in Ontario: A list of various specialized concussion clinics in Ontario. The list is not comprehensive but is meant to give providers guidance on some available services.
  Available here: <a href="https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-2-1.pdf">https://braininjuryguidelines.org/concussion/fileadmin/media/appendices/appendix-2-1.pdf</a>

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