

To: Members of the Youth Sports Concussion and Head Injury Return to Play Guidelines Committee
Fr: Matt Jones, BSN, RN, CEN
Da: December 18, 2014
Re: Youth Head Injuries and Return to Play

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. My name is Matt Jones. I am the clinical nurse manager for the emergency department (ED) at Grant Medical Center. My testimony today will be brief and focus simply on the protocols I follow in the emergency department when treating a youth head injury.

Upon arrival at the ED with complaints of a head injury, the patient is typically evaluated by a registered nurse and assigned an acuity based on her symptoms. The patient is then moved to a treatment roomed and examined by the nurse and the ED physician. A common evaluation includes but is not limited to a neurological assessment, visual acuity, and a CT of the head and neck. If the result of this initial evaluation suggests the patient should be admitted for further evaluation or testing, we consult the trauma department. Conversely, if no major head injury is suspected or noted on the CT scans, the patient is discharged with instructions to follow up with her primary care physician or a specialist, per the ED physician's discretion.

In terms of a return to play decision, we would likely not render that decision in the ER setting.

I understand the committee is charged with contemplating the diagnosis, treatment and return to play decision associated with youth head injuries. From an ED perspective, I can simply note that our approach to the diagnosis and treatment of head injuries is team-based and always includes a physician.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak to you today. I'm happy to answer any questions.