The Charter School of Wilmington

Academic Concussion Management Plan

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change or alter the way your brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. Effects are usually temporary and may include problems with headache, concentration, memory, judgment, balance and coordination. This type of injury needs time and rest to heal properly. The majority of concussive brain injuries are mild and most students fully recover within 1-3 weeks if the proper protocols advised by their health care provider and school team are followed.

*When your student returns to school following a concussion diagnosis, all appropriate medical documentation must be provided to the school nurse. If this does not occur, CSW will not have been advised of any academic recommendations provided by the student’s treatment team; therefore, unless all documentation and academic recommendations are provided in a timely manner to the school nurse, we cannot and will not be responsible for the timely implementation of any proposed academic recommendations.*

Guideline for return to classroom following diagnosis of concussion:

1. Notification – It is the parent’s responsibility in all cases to contact CSW’s school nurse should their child be diagnosed with a concussion injury. The school nurse can be reached by telephone (302)651-2727, ext. 225 or by email at kmicale@charterschool.org. The school nurse will in turn contact the student’s school counselor. The school nurse will contact the Athletic Director/Athletic Trainer if necessary.

2. Documentation – written documentation of a concussion injury will include a diagnosis and recommended accommodations signed by the attending physician. The accommodations may reflect attendance, physical/environmental conditions, and classroom academics including physical education.

3. A transition meeting will be held on the first day the student returns to school. The student should report in the morning directly to the school nurse’s office with medical documentation from the treating physician. The school nurse and the student’s
counselor will meet with the student. Documentation and accommodations will be discussed at this time.

4. Communication - accommodations will be communicated to classroom teachers and coordinated between home and school by the student’s school counselor. Our School Nurse will coordinate athletic (no play) guidelines with the Athletic Director and Trainer.

5. Progress Monitoring - The school nurse will monitor the student’s medical recovery progress and the school counselor will monitor the student’s academic progress.

6. Follow up with Primary Care Physician – Students must be re-assessed in the time frame recommended by the treating physician/health care provider in order for academic accommodations to be kept in place. Subsequent documentation must be given to CSW’s school nurse following each evaluation. Accommodations will be reassessed upon any of the following:
   - New physician documentation arrives dictating a new course of action
   - Symptoms have changed (and therefore the prior assessment needs to be altered)
   - Student is symptom-free and there are no barriers to school participation or attendance
   - Teachers or parents identify problems in current plan that are not being adequately addressed

7. Clearance – Student must be cleared by their treating physician. Documentation must be provided to CSW’s school nurse. **CSW policy dictates that a student must be cleared for full return to learning BEFORE they can be cleared for return to competition.**

The following guidelines are provided to assist any/all students in the recovery process after being diagnosed with a concussion. A concussion injury is considered a recoverable, episodic disability constituting temporary impairment. Please see Congress’ clarification of a temporary/transitory impairment below:

*A temporary impairment does not constitute a disability for purposes of Section 504 unless its severity is such that it results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities for an extended period of time....congress clarified that an individual is not “regarded as” an individual with a disability if the impairment is transitory and minor. A transitory impairment is impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less.*

For more detailed information from the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (Protecting Students with Disabilities) please visit their website (specifically #34).

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html

An educational plan may need to be considered should a student’s impairment last longer than 6 months. The school team would contact the student’s family to discuss a possible formal educational plan.
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I have read the CSW Academic Concussion Management Plan. I understand that if my child is diagnosed with a concussion, it is my responsibility to notify the school nurse of the diagnosis as soon as possible. Upon the student’s first day of return to school, proper documentation from the treating physician shall be provided to the school nurse. That documentation shall include a diagnosis and any recommended accommodations ordered by the treating physician. Upon receipt of this medical information, the school will initiate the Academic Concussion Management plan.

I also understand that CSW’s policy states that no student may return to athletic play or participation until they are fully cleared for academics by his/her treating physician. Academic clearance and return to play clearance must be in writing from the treating physician.

Name of Student: ___________________________ Grade: ______

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: ___________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian: ___________________________

Date: ____________________

Return to school nurse or main office

School Nurse: Karen Micale, RN, MSN 302-651-2727 x 225

kmicale@charterschool.org

*This agreement will remain on file until your child graduates from CSW*