



On September 1, 2016, Illinois's new concussion law went into effect. This legislation focuses on the required concussion management at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels.

We have provided "concussion takeaways" on the list below:

1. As per Governor Rauner's new concussion law, each school board in the State of Illinois is required to adopt a policy regarding student athlete concussions and head injuries.
2. The formation of a Concussion Oversight Team (COT) at each school is mandatory. The COT's primary function is to develop return-to-learn and return-to-play protocols for students believed to have experienced a concussion.
3. An injured individual's reported signs and symptoms and length of time needed for recovery will vary.
4. A list of accommodations from the injured student's Dr. is preferred, however, it is imperative to be sensitive to the injured student's condition and use good judgment in the classroom and at home.
5. A student returning from a concussion, whether it occurred in school or out of school, must go through all the steps of the established protocol.
6. If a student is suspected of a concussion or head injury and is pulled from a game or practice, the injured student must meet the minimum requirements to return to learn and to play. Only a physician, or an athletic trainer working under a physician's license, can clear the injured student, and then, the injured student's parent and a member of the school administration must sign off as well. Coaches and school nurses are not able to clear an injured student to return to learn or play.
7. When in doubt, sit it out!

We hope this list helps clarify the new concussion law and any questions you may have. As always, District 35 nursing team is here for you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we could be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Fay Kovar, BSN, RN, PEL-CSN- South School Nurse: 847-835-6440

Olivia Hoyt, BSN, RN, PEL-CSN- West School Nurse: 847-835-6640

Susan Ross, MSN, BSN, RN, PEL-CSN- Central School Nurse: 847-835-7640