

Re: HB 2016 amending the school sports head injury prevention act.

As members of the Cleveland Chiropractic College faculty, we are the current and previous instructors of the Clinical Neurology course. This course covers the current approach to appropriate diagnosis and management of concussion. The class defines concussion, discusses the symptoms related to concussion, and covers the management using the SCAT 3 and stepwise progression back to both cognitive function and physical activity. These components are integrated and the accepted standard of care in Kansas by KSHSAA policy on return to play.

Several articles have been published in the chiropractic literature reviewing current information on diagnosis and management of concussion. Chiropractic students are currently well-trained in history taking, physical examination procedures, neurologic examination, and when to order special imaging or refer urgently for neurologic consultation when red flags or persistent signs/symptoms associated with concussion are observed in patients presenting for chiropractic care (3,4,5). Current chiropractic students receive specific training on diagnosis and management of concussion and are familiar with scientific recommendations provided by the Fourth International Consensus Conference on Concussion most recently held in Zurich in 2012 (6). Researchers from Cleveland Chiropractic College (a part of Cleveland University, Kansas City) recently published a case study and brief literature review regarding concussion related headache successfully treated with chiropractic care and also published a recent study demonstrating that chiropractic student interns performed at a high level in knowledge related to headache management (7,8).

Concussion related to sports and recreational injuries occur at a high rate in the United States, with recent estimates of 3.8 million concussions occurring annually (1). Many more may be unreported as patients may not recognize or report symptoms and improper diagnosis across provider types may also occur. Concussions occur most commonly in association with motor vehicle accidents and sports injuries among young adults (2). It is expected that chiropractors likely see a large number of patients with concussion-related signs and symptoms and are well trained to evaluate (including ordering advanced imaging) and manage, refer appropriately, or co-manage this population of patients.

The management of care following a concussion is of great importance that should not be approached lightly due to the significant impact early return to play can have on an athlete. Only a health care profession properly trained in standard and accepted protocols should be allowed the responsibility of releasing a patient to return to cognitive and physical activities. We feel that today's chiropractors are equipped with this knowledge and are qualified for this important role in concussed athletes.

Respectfully submitted by:

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