



**HNEkidshealth**  
Children, Young People & Families

# Beyond the Bump:

The lasting impact of Paediatric Concussion Management

A Quality Improvement Project

**Paediatric Brain Injury Rehabilitation Team**

**Amy Shaw** Clinical Nurse Consultant

**Demmi Roy** Physiotherapist

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# Acknowledgements

Dr Heather Burnett

Dr Rob Smith

Gai Lovell

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PBIRT Team

Dr Guillaume Fayolle

Wendy McConnell

Dr Kelly Petersen

Dr Maheesha Fernando







# 2019 Case Study: Rebecca

## Initial weeks

Referral from ED:

13yo female,

Rugby injury

Brief LOC, GCS 14

Passed AWPTAS

**Referred to for phone call follow up**

## Phone call: 3 weeks post injury

Daily headaches

Napping++

School refusal

Hx Anxiety, Dyslexia

No physical activity/sport

**Plan: Rest until symptoms subside + GP review**

## Phone call: 6 weeks post injury

No GP review

**Headaches:** multiple / day, 6/10, frontal.

Napping

Hasn't returned to sport or activity

**Plan: found a clinic appointment in 6/52 with team Neurologist**

## Clinic 12 weeks post injury

**Plan:**

No sport until headaches improve.

Start Periactin, graded return to school

Review 2/12

**UPDATE: @ 5 months:** No headaches, improving, discharge.

# 2019: What we noticed



## Headaches and Anxiety

Headaches++

Parental anxiety/urgency for further imaging/tests

**Ongoing consequences to self, family, school, activity and sport**

## Sleep

Prolonged rest periods, impacting function and recovery

High achieving teens found it hard to rest/go slow

Difficult to re-establish sleep hygiene

## Trends

Majority local referrals

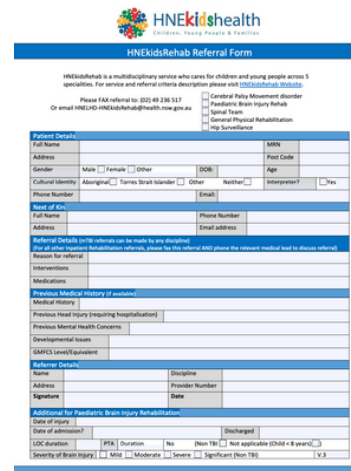
No consistent validated assessment tool

Difficulty accessing medical clinics

Symptom education only

Once reviewed medically, complaints of symptoms reduce

## Previous mTBI referral and management process

**2-week  
phone call  
follow up**

**Phone  
support & education**

**Persistent symptoms?**

Escalation and find  
medical appointment

**Onward referral**

- Adult sports mTBI clinic
- Pain Service

**Discharge**

?Medical appointment



# 2019 Data in Review (67 patients)

**Days to First  
Contact**

**20 days**

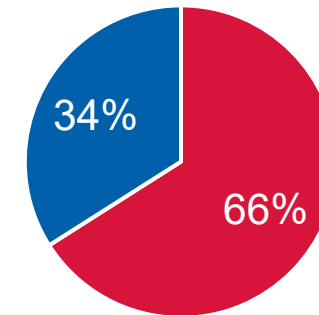
**Service  
Request  
Length**

**55 days**

**Time to Medical  
Review**

**58 days**

**Percentage of  
PCS**



■ mTBI without PCS ■ mTBI with PCS

**Number of  
Referrals**

**5.5/month**

# Benchmarking and Evidence



# Benchmarking



## SCHN

Finding clinic space within rehab clinics

2 week follow up phone calls

Starting to do phone calls earlier



## CHISM

Developed Concussion Action Plan tools

Dedicated Concussion Clinics  
Staff Specialists  
Exercise Physiologist  
Physiotherapist  
OT's etc



## QPRS

Admission form using PCSI-P scale

Calling ASAP

Graded return information

Family to call at a month

Booked into clinic

# Evidence

## Early injury evaluation



### Original research

## Early injury evaluation following concussion is associated with improved recovery time in children and adolescents

Maree Cassimatis<sup>a</sup>, Rhonda Orr<sup>a,b</sup>, Andrew Fyffe<sup>a,b</sup>, Gary Browne<sup>b,c,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Discipline of Exercise and Sports Science, Sydney School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Australia

<sup>b</sup> Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Children's Hospital Institute of Sports Medicine, Children's Hospital Westmead, Australia

<sup>c</sup> The Children's Hospital at Westmead Clinical School, Discipline of Child and Adolescent Health, The University of Sydney, Australia

### Factors predictive of a protracted concussion recovery were:

1. Delayed evaluation time
2. High initial symptom burden at first clinic presentation (measured via the Post-Concussion Symptom Scale).

**Screening guidelines associated with improved recovery time**

# Evidence

## Return to activity



### ORIGINAL RESEARCH

## Graded Exercise Testing Predicts Recovery Trajectory of Concussion in Children and Adolescents

Orr, Rhonda PhD<sup>\*</sup>; Bogg, Tina BExPhys<sup>†</sup>; Fyffe, Andrew BExPhys<sup>†</sup>; Lam, Lawrence T. PhD<sup>‡</sup>; Browne, Gary J. MBBS, MSpMed<sup>†,§</sup>

[Author Information](#) ⓘ

*Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine* 31(1):p 23-30, January 2021. | DOI: 10.1097/JSM.0000000000000683

### Original Investigation

December 20, 2016

## Association Between Early Participation in Physical Activity Following Acute Concussion and Persistent Postconcussive Symptoms in Children and Adolescents

Anne M. Grool, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Mary Aglipay, MSc<sup>1</sup>; Franco Momoli, PhD<sup>1</sup>; et al

[➤ Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

*JAMA*. 2016;316(23):2504-2514. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.17396

[Randomized Controlled Trial](#) > *Lancet Child Adolesc Health*. 2021 Nov;5(11):792-799.

doi: 10.1016/S2352-4642(21)00267-4. Epub 2021 Oct 1.

## Early targeted heart rate aerobic exercise versus placebo stretching for sport-related concussion in adolescents: a randomised controlled trial

John J Leddy<sup>1</sup>, Christina L Master<sup>2</sup>, Rebekah Mannix<sup>3</sup>, Douglas J Wiebe<sup>4</sup>, Matthew F Grady<sup>5</sup>, William P Meehan<sup>6</sup>, Eileen P Storey<sup>7</sup>, Brian T Vernau<sup>8</sup>, Naomi J Brown<sup>5</sup>, Danielle Hunt<sup>9</sup>, Fairuz Mohammed<sup>10</sup>, Andrea Mallon<sup>8</sup>, Kate Rownd<sup>10</sup>, Kristy B Arbogast<sup>11</sup>, Adam Cunningham<sup>12</sup>, Mohammad N Haider<sup>12</sup>, Andrew R Mayer<sup>13</sup>, Barry S Willer<sup>14</sup>

**Early physical activity within 7 days of acute injury compared with no physical activity is associated with reduced risk of PPCS at 28 days**

**Gradual exercise introduction is a safe and effective way to assist recovery**



# Evidence

## School



## Association Between Early Return to School Following Acute Concussion and Symptom Burden at 2 Weeks Postinjury

Christopher G. Vaughan, PsyD; Andrée-Anne Ledoux, PhD; Maegan D. Sady, PhD; Ken Tang, PhD; Keith Owen Yeates, PhD; Gurinder Sangha, MD; Martin H. Osmond, MD; Stephen B. Freedman, MD; Jocelyn Gravel, MD; Isabelle Gagnon, MD; William Craig, MD; Emma Burns, MD; Kathy Boutis, MD; Darcy Beer, MD; Gerard Gioia, PhD; Roger Zemek, MD; for the PERC 5P Concussion Team

For older children and adolescents, early return to school within one to two days after injury may be associated with more rapid recovery.

**Growing evidence that prolonged absences from school and other life activities after a concussion may be detrimental to recovery.**

# Evidence

## Headache



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Pediatric Neurology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pnu](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pnu)



Original Article

### **Does Analgesic Overuse Contribute to Chronic Post-traumatic Headaches in Adolescent Concussion Patients?**

**Geoffrey L. Heyer MD<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Syed A. Idris MD<sup>a,b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> Department of Pediatrics, Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

<sup>b</sup> Department of Neurology, Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

70% of chronic post-traumatic headache was probable medication overuse headache

68% resolution or improvement of headache after discontinuing analgesics.

**Monitor for excessive use of analgesics**

# Evidence

## Sleep



## Sleep outcomes in pediatric mild traumatic brain injury: a systematic review and meta-analysis of prevalence and contributing factors

Suzana Djukic <sup>1</sup>, Natalie Lynette Phillips <sup>1</sup>, Suncica Lah <sup>1</sup>

Affiliations + expand




PMID: 36413091 DOI: [10.1080/02699052.2022.2140198](https://doi.org/10.1080/02699052.2022.2140198)

- Sleep disturbances are common but tend to decrease with time
- Post Concussive symptoms can result from, and exacerbate, sleep disturbances in a “vicious cycle”

**Normalising the sleep wake cycle is important**

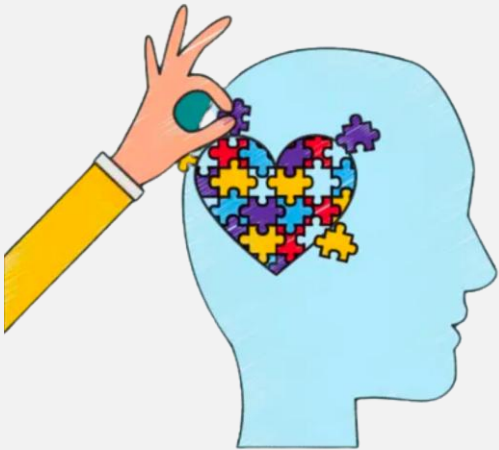


# Mental health after paediatric concussion: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Alice Gornall <sup>1,2</sup> Michael Takagi <sup>1,2,3</sup> Thilanka Morawakage,<sup>2</sup> Xiaomin Liu,<sup>2</sup>  
Vicki Anderson <sup>2,3,4</sup>

## Evidence

## Mental Health

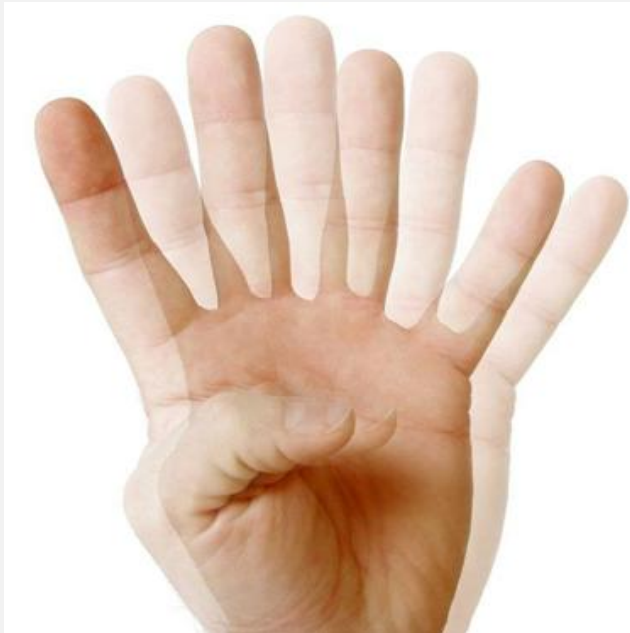


- Children with concussion compared to controls experienced significantly higher levels of
  - Internalising (withdrawal, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress)
  - Externalising (conduct problems, aggression, attention, hyperactivity)

**Mental health should be evaluated as part of standard paediatric concussion assessment**

# Evidence

## Oculomotor dysfunction



Review

> J Neurol Sci. 2016 Feb 15;361:79-86. doi: 10.1016/j.jns.2015.12.010. Epub 2015 Dec 9.

## Ocular motor assessment in concussion: Current status and future directions

Rachel E Ventura <sup>1</sup>, Laura J Balcer <sup>2</sup>, Steven L Galetta <sup>3</sup>, Janet C Rucker <sup>4</sup>

Affiliations + expand

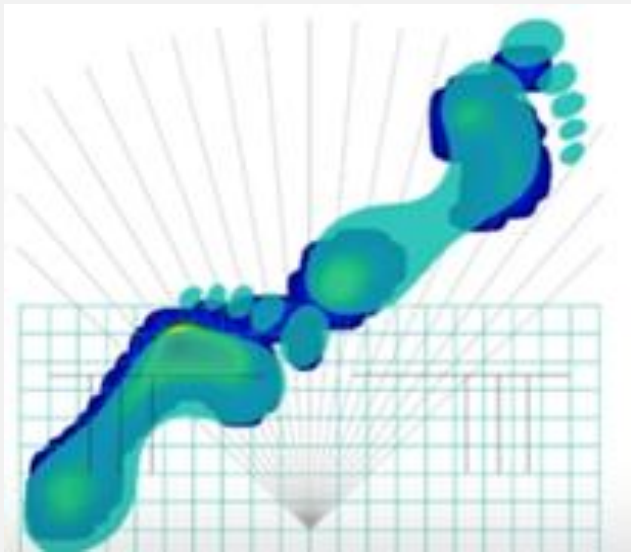
PMID: 26810521 DOI: [10.1016/j.jns.2015.12.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jns.2015.12.010)

- 61% of patients report symptoms on oculomotor screening
- Convergence, saccadic eye movements and smooth pursuit should be routinely screened
- Gaze stability - has been shown to improve dynamic visual acuity to reduce symptoms

**Oculomotor symptoms have been associated with longer recovery periods post-concussion**

# Evidence

## Vestibular dysfunction



> J Pediatr. 2015 May;166(5):1221-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2015.01.039. Epub 2015 Mar 5.

## Vestibular Deficits following Youth Concussion

Daniel J Corwin <sup>1</sup>, Douglas J Wiebe <sup>2</sup>, Mark R Zonfrillo <sup>3</sup>, Matthew F Grady <sup>4</sup>, Roni L Robinson <sup>5</sup>, Arlene M Goodman <sup>6</sup>, Christina L Master <sup>7</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 25748568 PMCID: PMC4485554 DOI: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2015.01.039

- Up to 81% of patients have vestibular abnormality on assessment
- Approximately one third will have positional vertigo
- Habituation - repeated exposure leads to reduction of motion sensitivity symptoms
- Gaze stability - induces adaptation of VOR
- Re-positioning maneuver's - if BPPV present

**Vestibular rehabilitation has been shown to accelerate recovery for concussed paediatric athletes**



# Evidence

## Cervical spine disorders



Review > [J Athl Train.](#) 2016 Dec;51(12):1037-1044. doi: 10.4085/1062-6050-51.12.15.

Epub 2016 Nov 11.

### Cervical Injury Assessments for Concussion Evaluation: A Review

Kelly Cheever<sup>1</sup>, Keisuke Kawata<sup>2</sup>, Ryan Tierney<sup>1</sup>, Anne Galgon<sup>1</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 27835042 PMCID: [PMC5264559](#) DOI: [10.4085/1062-6050-51.12.15](#)

- There can be significant overlap between concussion and whiplash
- Cervical spine pathology following concussion can contribute to neck pain, headaches, dizziness and balance difficulties
- Exercise/manual therapy - restores active/passive ROM, strength, motor control and stability to reduce referred pain/headache

**Physiotherapy for the cervical spine can help patients recover more quickly from concussion**

## American Academy of Pediatrics. Clinical report-- sport-related concussion in children and adolescents

Mark E Halstead, Kevin D Walter; Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness

Collaborators + expand

PMID: 20805152 DOI: 10.1542/peds.2010-2005

Prior to working through a Return To Play (RTP) protocol the child/adolescent;

- Is symptom free
- Has returned to school/work
- Has ceased medication
- Has a normal neurological examination
- Is back to baseline on balance and cognitive assessment

**Graded Return to Play for children and adolescents should be individualised and more conservative than adult athletes**

# Evidence

## RETURN TO PLAY

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5	STAGE 6
No sporting activity	Light aerobic exercise	Sport-specific exercise	Non-contact drills	Full contact practice	BACK IN THE GAME
Symptom limited cognitive & physical rest				Restore confidence; assess functional skills	
Recovery	Increase heart rate	Add movement	Exercise, coordination, cognitive load		Normal game play
Symptom free for 24hrs YES? Begin stage 2 NO? Continue rest	Symptom free for 24hrs YES? Begin stage 3 NO? Return to stage 1	Symptom free for 24hrs YES? Begin stage 4 NO? Return to stage 2	Symptom free for 24hrs YES? Begin stage 5 NO? Return to stage 3	Symptom free for 24hrs YES? Begin stage 6 NO? Return to stage 4	
Date & time completed	Date & time completed	Date & time completed	Date & time completed	Date & time completed	
Medical clearance required before moving to Stage 5					

Figure 3: Return to play (Parachute canada)

# Pilot model

What did we change?





## Earlier phone call follow up

Aim for phone call follow up within 7 days from referral



# Concussion Clinic

Registrar / CNC led  
Monthly

3 patients per clinic with PCS  
(symptomatic > 4 weeks)

# Concussion Action Plan (CAP) - extended

For patients with a complex concussion requiring specialist treatment

FAMILY NAME	MRN
GIVEN NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
D.O.B. / /	M.O.
ADDRESS	
LOCATION/WARD	

Doctor to complete

**Your child has a concussion. Their symptoms include:**

<b>Physical</b>	<b>Cognitive (thinking)</b>	<b>Emotional</b>	<b>Sleep</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Headache	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity to light	<input type="checkbox"/> Irritability	<input type="checkbox"/> Drowsiness
<input type="checkbox"/> Nausea	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity to noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Sadness	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping more than usual
<input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbness/tingling	<input type="checkbox"/> Feeling more emotional than usual	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping less than usual
<input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Nervousness	<input type="checkbox"/> Trouble falling asleep
<input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/> Balance problems		

Over the next few days, symptoms may worsen or other symptoms may appear. Watch out for HEAD BUMPS (symptoms listed below). If they occur, seek urgent medical attention.

<b>H</b> Headache, seizure, unconscious.	<b>B</b> Balance dysfunction with weakness or numbness in legs/arms.
<b>E</b> Eye problems (blurred/double vision).	<b>U</b> Unsteady on feet, slurred speech.
<b>A</b> Abnormal behaviour change.	<b>M</b> Memory impaired, confused, disoriented.
<b>D</b> Dizziness, persistent vomiting.	<b>P</b> Poor concentration, drowsy, sleepy.
	<b>S</b> Something's not right (concerned about child).

Doctor's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Direct parents to follow the CAP, overleaf. The CAP, Symptoms Log Sheet and other tools to support a child with concussion are available for download at [kidshealth.org.au/concussion](https://kidshealth.org.au/concussion)

**Activity Prescription Guidelines:**

The following activity prescription has been developed to help your child manage their concussion safely and effectively. Exercise levels are derived from your child's performance during graded exercise testing and deviating from these guidelines may put your child at risk of prolonged recovery. It is advised that if you have any questions or concerns you should consult your doctor or exercise physiologist.

**Key:**

RPE = rating of perceived exertion, your child's subjective rating of how intense the exercise is out of 10.

HRT = heart rate threshold, the heart rate at which your child experiences overwhelming symptom exacerbation during exercise testing.

**For parents**

Have your child complete the following zone and stepwise program. Aim to keep activity within the **rating of perceived exertion (RPE)** or heart rate guide (if your child has a heart rate monitoring device). Seek urgent medical attention if your child's symptoms worsen or if other symptoms appear (see the HEAD BUMPS symptoms list overleaf).

Red zone

REST PERIOD: Days 1 and 2 following injury: (Date started: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Rest your child from any physical or cognitive activity.**

**Supportive care**

- Encourage good sleep patterns. Rest your child with no TV, phone or disruptions.
- Provide regular meals and a minimum of 2L of water per day.
- Use over the counter headache medication as needed.
- Complete the Symptoms Log Sheet, monitoring your child's symptoms and signs. Continue using the sheet until your child reaches 14 days without symptoms.
- Encourage your child to have a positive mental attitude towards their recovery.

After 2 days of acute rest, you may move on to the next zone. Use the Symptoms Log Sheet to record any symptoms that your child develops. If your child develops symptoms during an activity, stop the activity and let your child rest. When the symptoms are gone, have your child try the activity again.

Activity Dose

RPE  
0 - 1 /10  
Nothing at all - very, very light

Heart rate  
< 120 bpm

Orange zone

RELATIVE REST PERIOD: Until cleared to return to light activity (Date started: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Recommendations:**

- Start low level physical and cognitive activity. Your child can now move around more freely.

Activities may include:

☐ less than 20 minutes daily walking ☐ balance exercises e.g. single leg stands and heel-toe walking ☐ cognitive tasks e.g. reading

**Supportive care**

- Try to reduce and/or stop headache medication once your child is more physically/mentally active.
- Should sleep pattern remain a problem, then further assessment and possible treatment with Melatonin may be considered. This will require medical supervision and is best discussed with your local GP.

See your GP to check that your child may progress to the next zone. Your child must be symptom tolerant before moving on to Step 1. Use the Symptoms Log Sheet to record any symptoms that your child develops. If your child develops symptoms during an activity, stop the activity and let your child rest. When the symptoms are gone, have your child try the activity again.

Activity Dose

RPE  
2 - 4 /10  
Very light - light-moderate

Heart rate  
120 - 140 bpm

Yellow zone

GRADED RETURN TO ACTIVITY (Date started: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Step 1 – Light cognitive and physical activity**

- Progress toward 30 minutes of cognitive exertion.
- Your child can perform 20 minutes of aerobic activity at 80% of their **heart rate threshold (HRT)**, increasing by 10% each week. Progress to the next step if your child is symptom free for 24 hours.

**Step 2 – Moderate cognitive and physical activity**

- Part time school with accommodations (rest breaks, minimal homework, no exams) until able to handle 60 minutes or more of cognitive exertion.
- Specific skills and moderate aerobic activity for 20-30 minutes.

Progress to the next step if your child is symptom free for 24 hours.

**Step 3 – Extended activity**

- Progress towards full time school with minimal accommodations.
- More intense aerobic and skill-based activity on a more regular basis.

Progress to the next step if your child is symptom free for 24 hours.

Use the Symptoms Log Sheet to record any symptoms that your child develops. If your child develops symptoms during an activity, stop the activity and let your child rest. When the symptoms are gone, have your child try the activity again.

Activity Dose

RPE  
5 - 7 /10  
Moderate - hard

HRT:  
Heart rate  
80% HRT  
+10% each week

Green zone

RETURNING TO PRE-INJURY ACTIVITY (Date started: \_\_\_\_\_)

Once your child has been cleared to commence a return to activity protocol, they are ready to progress as follows:

**Step 4 – Pre-injury activity (without contact)**

- Full time school with minimal accommodations progressing when able to handle all classroom activities.
- Attend sport practice, however with no contact or collision activities.

**Step 5 – Reconditioning (without contact)**

- Full school.
- Progressively return to non-contact sports over the next few weeks (e.g. 10 minutes → half game → full game).
- Prepare for return to play with extra aerobic and (if relevant) resistance training. Your child must have 14 days symptom free before returning to contact sport.

Your child must be symptom free for 14 days before moving on to Step 6. If clearance is needed for your child's school or sporting club, see your GP to obtain the sign off below.

Doctor's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 6 – Full activity (with contact)**

- Once your child has been symptom free for 14 days, return to all activities without restriction, including contact and collision sports.

Activity Dose

RPE  
8 - 10 /10  
Very hard - maximal

HRT:  
Heart rate  
80 - 100% HRT

Provided at Discharge

Up to 2 days rest

Gradual Return:

- Activity
- School
- Sport

CAP



# Website

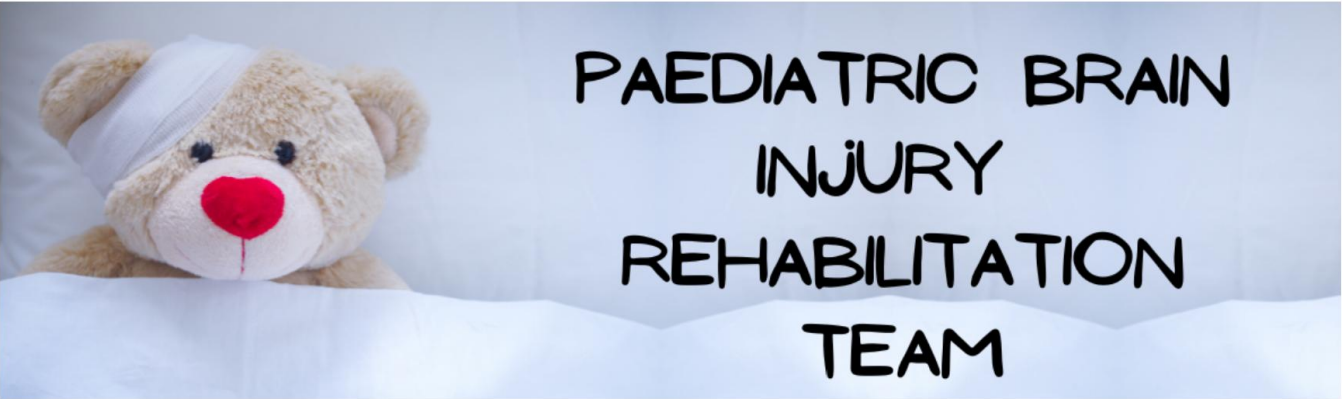
## Concussion Education

- Concussion Action Plan
- Symptom Fact Sheets
- Graded Return to School
- Graded Return to Sport



About Us ▾ John Hunter Children's Hospital ▾ **Facilities ▾** Patients and Public ▾ Professionals ▾ Support Us ▾

Home > Facilities > Community Health Services > HNEkidsRehab Services > Paediatric Brain Injury Rehabilitation Team



HNEkidsRehab is the Rehabilitation service of HNEkidsHealth and has a dedicated Paediatric Brain Injury Rehabilitation Team (PBIRT).

PBIRT cares for children and families through their journey of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). This journey looks different for every family, but with PBIRT's support, we aim to help each child achieve their full potential.

PBIRT have a team based at John Hunter Children's Hospital for inpatient rehabilitation and a community team. Our community team are located at 621 Hunter St Newcastle West NSW.

Our staff aim to provide care and support from the time of injury/illness through to long-term rehabilitation.

Facilities
John Hunter Childr
Community Health
Regional Hospitals
John Hunter Childr Map
District Wide Servi





# QPRS Intake form

## PCSI- P

Parent reported measure of symptoms  
Serial measurement of symptom burden

Family name:		Given name:		DOB:		URN:									
<b>Post-Concussion Symptom Inventory (PCSI-P) Parent Report Form</b> (modified to question parents): <b>0</b> = not a problem; <b>3</b> = moderate problem; <b>6</b> = severe problem															
		Before the Injury / Pre-Injury				Current Symptoms / Yesterday and today									
1	Complains of headaches	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Complains of Nausea	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Has balance problems	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Appears or complains of dizziness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Appears drowsy	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Sleeping <i>more than usual</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Sensitivity to light	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Sensitivity to noise	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Actis irritable	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Appears sad	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Acts nervous	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Acts more emotional	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
13	Acts or appears mentally "foggy"	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
14	Has difficulty concentrating	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
15	Has difficulty remembering	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
16	Has or complains of visual problems (blurry, double vision)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Appears more tired or fatigued	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
18	Becomes confused with directions or tasks	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
19	Appears to move in a clumsy manner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
20	Answers questions more slowly <i>than usual</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
PCSI Total Symptom Score		Pre-Injury _____				Post-Injury _____									
In general, to what degree is your child acting "differently" than before the injury (not acting like himself or herself)?		<b>No Difference   0   1   2   3   4   Major Difference</b> Circle your rating with "0" indicating "Normal" (No Difference) and "4" indicating "Very Different" (Major Difference)													
Authored / Developed by: Gioia, Janusz, Sady, Vaughan, & Isquith. 2012.															



# John Hunter Hospital Emergency Department

Collaboration with John Hunter Children's  
Hospital FACEM's

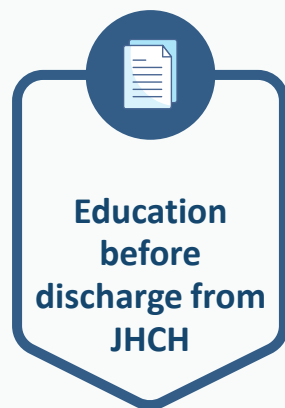
Concussion Action Plan's and referral  
forms now being used by the ED team

5P Prediction Tool (introduced 2024)

## Pilot Study mTBI Management Pathway



**REFERRAL**



**EDUCATION**



**PHONE**



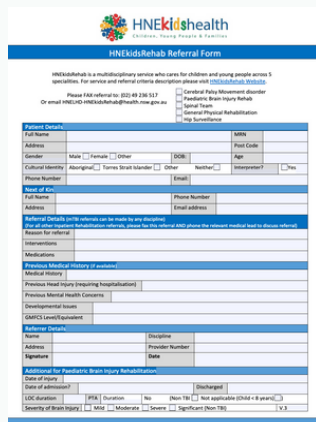
**REVIEW**



**CLINIC**



**AFTER CARE**




**REST and  
GRADED RETURN**

**SMS with CAP**

**Phone call < 1  
week.**

**GP  
appointment**

**Education**

**PCSI ax  
Vestibulo-ocular Ax  
(prior to clinic if needed)**

**School liaison  
Telehealth**

**Refer mTBI clinic**

**Clinic review**

**Registrar  
CNC  
PT  
Staff Specialist**

**Discharge  
or  
Onward referral  
Paediatrician  
Psychology  
CHISM  
etc**

# Can we predict who will get PPCS ?



## Clinical Risk Score for Persistent Postconcussion Symptoms Among Children With Acute Concussion in the ED

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» [Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

JAMA. 2016;315(10):1014-1025. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.1203

## Score Calculator

	0	1	2
Age of patient	<input type="radio"/> 5 to <8 years	<input type="radio"/> 8 to <13 years	<input type="radio"/> 13 to <18 years
Sex of patient	<input type="radio"/> Male		<input type="radio"/> Female
How long did the patient's previous concussion last?	<input type="radio"/> No previous concussion or Recovery in less than 1 week	<input type="radio"/> Recovery took 1 week or longer	
Does the patient have a history of migraines?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes	
Did the patient answer questions more slowly than normal as compared to before the injury?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes	
On the BESS Tandem stance balance testing, how many errors did the patient have in 20 seconds?	<input type="radio"/> 0-3 errors	<input type="radio"/> 4 or more errors, or could not complete the balance testing	
Does the patient have a headache?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes	
Does the patient have sensitivity to noise?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes	
Is the patient more fatigued?	<input type="radio"/> No		





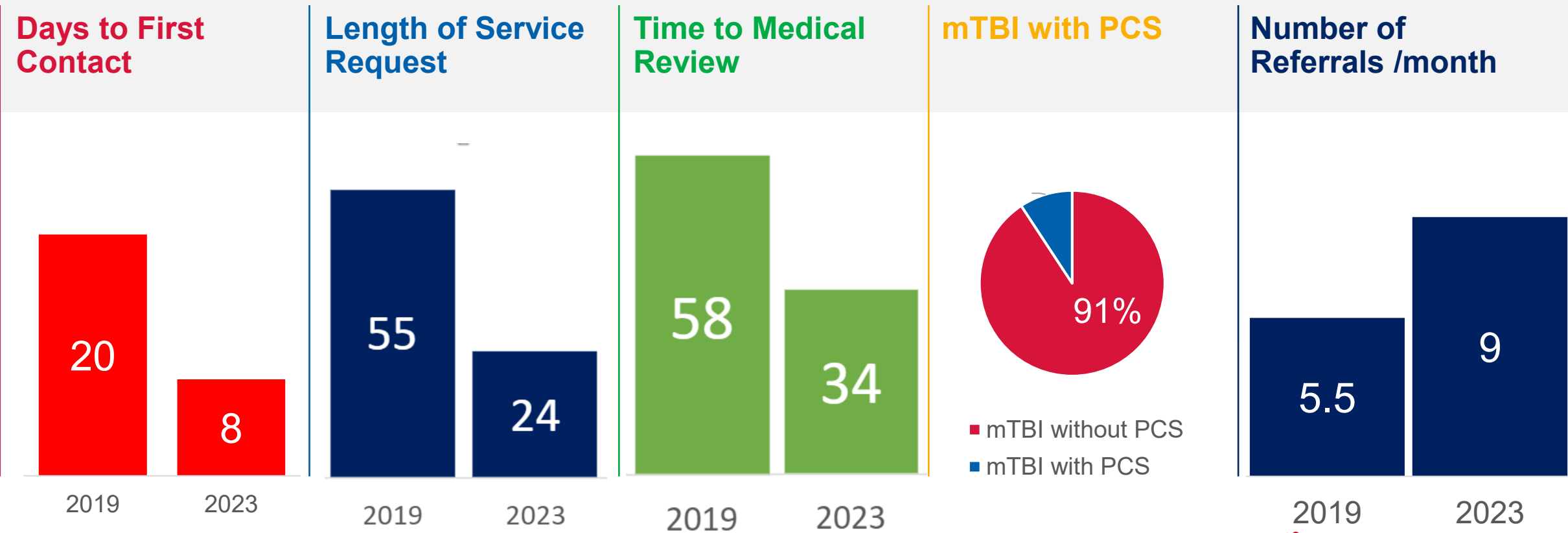
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## Pathways for rural and remote children and young people



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# Results



# 7

## Next steps...

2024





Ongoing community awareness

Collaborating with District Paed  
CNC's

5P Concussion Tool: JHCH

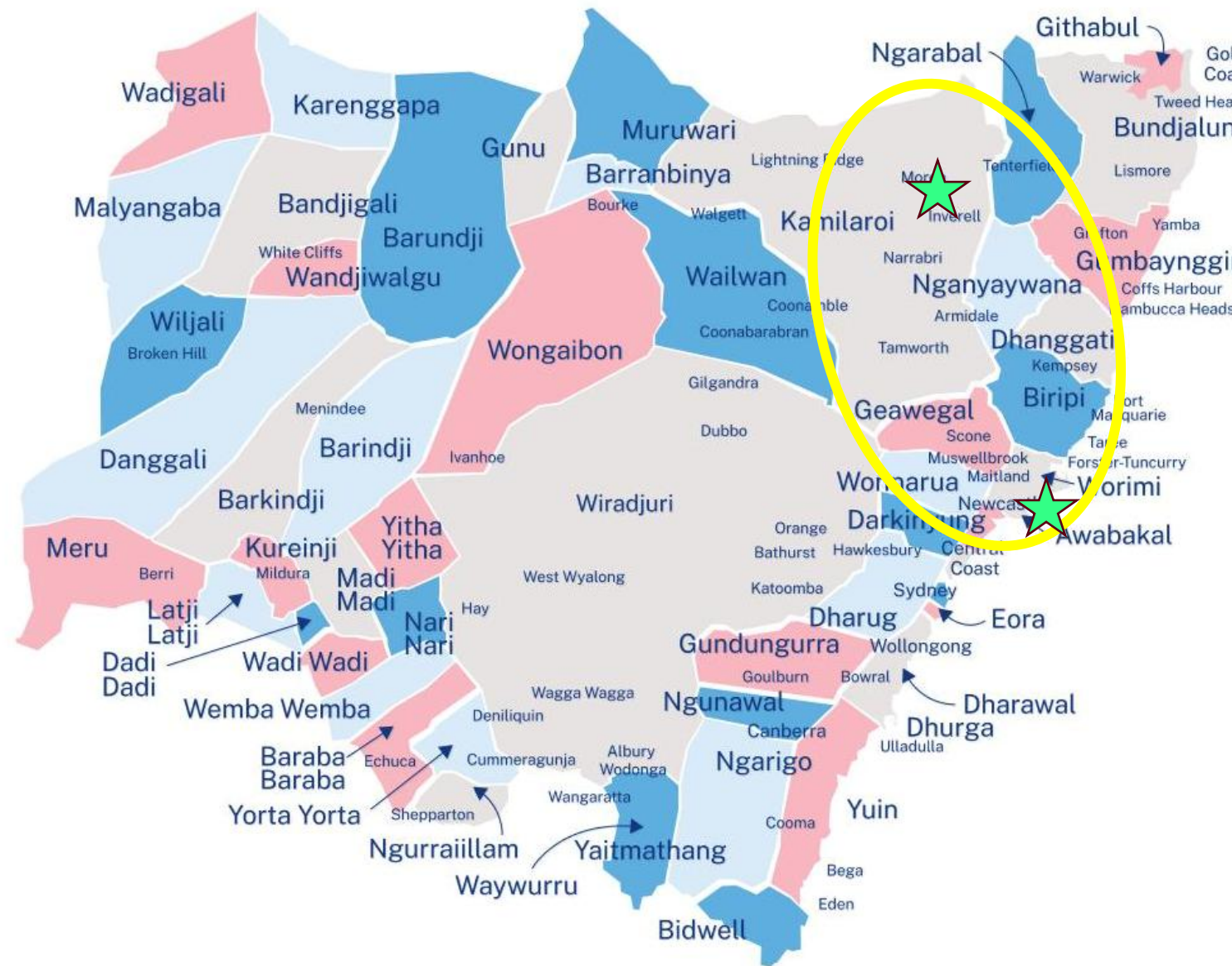
Ongoing service development  
through potential funding  
opportunities

# 2025

## Latest news!

Referral + 5P Risk score

### Aboriginal nations and languages in NSW & ACT





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**Thank You**

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