

Sample Home Concussion Management Form

The Return to Learning (RTL) and Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) Plans have been developed in partnership with Parachute and are based on the most recent research and recommendations of the expert scientific community on concussion, that is the Canadian Guidelines on Concussion in Sport, July 2017 and the Berlin Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport, October 2016.

The Home Return to School Form is for parents/guardians to track and communicate to the school a student's progress through the stages of the Return to Learning (RTL) plan and the Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) plan following a diagnosed concussion.

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Background Information on the Concussion Recovery Process

A student with a diagnosed concussion needs to follow a Return to School Plan which includes an individualized and gradual Return to Learning (RTL) plan and Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) plan. In developing the Return to School Plan, the RTL process is designed to meet the particular needs of the student, as there is not a pre-set plan of strategies and/or approaches to assist a student returning to their learning activities. In contrast the RTPA plan follows an internationally recognized graduated approach.

The management of a student concussion is a shared responsibility, requiring regular communication, between the home, school (Collaborative Team) and sport organizations with which the student is involved and registered with consultation from the student's medical doctor or nurse practitioner and/or other licensed healthcare providers (for example, nurses, physiotherapists, chiropractors and athletic therapists).

There are two parts to a student's RTL and RTPA plan. This first part occurs at home and prepares the student for the second part which occurs at school. The school part of the plan begins with:

- A meeting with the principal/designate to provide the parent(s)/guardian(s) information on:
 - the school part of the RTL and RTPA plan
 - the Collaborative Team participants and parent(s)/guardian(s) role on the team
- A student assessment to determine possible strategies and/or approaches for student learning

The home stages of the Return to School Plan for RTL and RTPA (Initial Rest to Stage 2 for RTS and Initial Rest to Stage 2b of RTPA) focuses on a student's progression through the home stages of the RTL and RTPA plan. It has been designed to provide direction for, and documentation of the stages of the RTL and RTPA plan.

General Procedures For a Home Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)

- The stages of the plan occur at home under the supervision of the parent/guardian in consultation with the medical doctor/nurse practitioner and/or other licensed healthcare providers.
- A student moves forward to the next stage when activities at the current stage are tolerated and the student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms, or worsening symptoms.
- If symptoms return, or new symptoms appear during stages 1 and 2 of the **Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Learning (RTL)** and the **Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Physical Activity (RTPA)**, the student returns to previous stage for a minimum of 24 hours and only participates in activities that can be tolerated.
- If at any time symptoms worsen, the student/parent/guardian should contact the medical doctor/nurse practitioner or seek medical help immediately.
- While the RTL and RTPA stages are inter-related they are not interdependent. Students do not have to go through the same stages of RTL and RTPA at the same time. However, before a student can return to school they must have completed RTL Stage 2 and RTPA Stage 2b.
- A student must not return to vigorous or organized physical activities where the risk of re-injury is possible, until they have successfully completed all stages of the Return to School plan. However early introduction of some low intensity physical activity in controlled and predictable environments with no risk of re-injury is appropriate.
- This plan does not replace medical advice.
- Progression through the plan is individual, timelines and activities may vary.

Instructions for the Home Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)

- Review the activities (permitted and not permitted) at each stage prior to beginning the plan.
- Check the boxes at the completion of each stage to record student's progress through the stages.
- A student may progress through the Return to Learning (RTL) stages at a faster or slower rate than the Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) stages.
- When the student has successfully completed stages 1 and 2 of the Concussion Return to School Plan for RTL and RTPA, parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign and date this form.
- Communicate to the school principal/designate that the student is ready to begin the school portion of the RTL and RTPA plan.