

Concussion Clinic FAQs

Why did we start the concussion clinic?

The clinic facilitates early and reliable follow-up with a physician after discharge from hospital or primary care assessment to check on patient status and make recommendations for next steps. We know that many of these patients are lost to follow up.

50% of patients still report symptoms from concussion one year post-injury. Early intervention can promote positive outcomes. The clinic provides a consistent outreach and medical connection post-discharge to coordinate appropriate intervention to maximize outcomes and minimize readmissions.

What patients are eligible?

All patients over 12 year of age who have suspected head injuries, with or without symptoms who do not require admission to hospital can be referred for follow up.

Do I have to change anything about my current practice?

Not at all. Physicians are encouraged to conduct the same assessment that you would normally perform on your patient. This may include imaging. The concussion clinic is designed to ensure that the patients that you discharge have consistent and specialized follow-up, without having to return to the ED or wait a long time for a referral.

What happens after a referral is made?

It runs just like the fracture clinic or GIMRAC. After you fax the referral, the patient will be contacted by the clinic within 24 hours to schedule a virtual visit with a physician. At that time a detailed assessment will be performed. If there is a need for further follow up, this will be facilitated by the clinic and communicated to the family physician or other consultants.

Where do I find the Referral Form?

The copies of the referral form are available in the bridge in the ED, along with detailed head injury discharge instructions. The referral form is also attached to this email.

Where does follow up care occur for patients who need it?

Whenever possible, care will be provided by the same providers that we use now. This could include local physiotherapy clinics, the patients primary care physician, the TBI programs through McMaster, etc. For patients who require physiotherapy but who do not have coverage, the clinic will attempt to connect them with OHIP-funded physiotherapy clinics.

Is there a cost to our hospital or to the patient?

There is no cost to Joseph Brant Hospital or to the patient for the service. All follow up assessments are OHIP funded visits.

Who developed the discharge instructions?

The discharge instructions are based on best practices for acute concussion management amalgamated from sources in the US and Canada including CDC, AANSCC, Mass General ED, Mount Sinai Hospital ED, UHN ED, Parachute Canada and CASEM. The discharge instructions were reviewed and revised by the team at Joseph Brant Hospital.

What are the qualifications of the physicians who are completing the Check-In Appointments?

The physicians completing the Check-In Appointments are members in good standing with the CPSO and they have had additional training in the assessment and management of concussions and head injuries. They may be certified in neurology, emergency medicine or sports medicine.

I am an emergency physician interested in doing assessments in the clinic, are positions available?

There is an opportunity for our ED physicians to participate in doing these assessments. If you are interested, please reach out to Dr. Preyra at ipreyra@josephbranthospital.ca

Who runs the concussion clinic?

Highmark Interactive is a public company that delivers digital health and clinical services for brain and mental health care. With the founders' experience in emergency medicine, trauma and critical care. They identified the need to ensure that there is a program that can facilitate a physician-to-physician follow-up referral at ER discharge for suspected head injury or diagnosed concussion, much like a referral to a fracture clinic after a musculoskeletal injury.

What if I have more questions?

If you have any questions or suggestions on how to make the service better for our providers and our patients, please reach out to Dr. Preyra at ipreyra@josephbranthospital.ca or message Dr. Preyra on Hypercare.