

West Bend Clinic

Froedtert & Community Health

West Bend Clinic Establishes Concussion Management Program for Athletes

West Bend Clinic, a member of Froedtert & Community Health, has established a Concussion Management Program that utilizes results from pre and post cognitive testing to assist in safer, more accurate diagnosis and treatment of sports related concussions for athletes ages 11 to 50.

West Bend Clinic has partnered with the Wisconsin Sports Concussion Collaborative and ImPACT Applications, Inc. to launch a formal Concussion Management Program that promotes testing, education, awareness, and state-of-the-art standards of care for local athletes. The Concussion Management team includes neurologist Lawrence Sullivan, MD, sports medicine physician Stacy Lynch, MD and athletic trainers from West Bend Clinic Rehabilitation Center.



“Previously, the diagnosis and treatment of sports-related concussions was difficult due to the different grading and return to play guidelines that exist. Reliance on subjective reporting potentially increases the risk of re-injury for these athletes, especially when combined with conflicting interpretations and interests of players, coaches, parents and doctors,” said Sullivan. “We have recently used the new ImPACT™ diagnostic tool on several occasions with injured student athletes in the Hartford and Hustisford area. Because of its objective data we can determine a much more accurate diagnosis and treatment.”

ImPACT is a sophisticated computerized test that accurately detects sports-related concussions by comparing baseline results with testing conducted following a head injury. It is the program used by the NFL, NHL, MLB and many collegiate teams. Prior to the start of the season, athletes take a 20-minute baseline computer test to evaluate their neurocognitive state (brain processing speed, memory, and visual motor skills).

If an athlete later suffers a suspected concussion, they are re-tested and the data is compared to the initial baseline test. The physician uses the data collected to confirm diagnosis, measure severity and with repeated testing, determine a safe, individualized treatment plan and return to play. If an athlete suffers a concussion without the prior baseline test, the ImPACT program can still be effective using normal range data based on the athlete’s age and other statistical information.

The program is currently in use at Hartford Union and Hustisford High Schools in conjunction with the Hartford Clinic. Local area sports teams are able to take part in the program with baseline testing also being conducted at West Bend Clinic. Baseline tests are \$15 per athlete and are valid for two years.

For more information or to schedule a testing session, please contact the West Bend Clinic Rehabilitation Center at 262-306-6319.