
GUIDE TO DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The best strategy for developing community partnerships depends on the size of your community, the number of healthcare professionals, and their level of expertise in sports medicine and concussion management.

Rural communities with few or no healthcare professionals may have a particular challenge to find a medical provider to participate at the school and help clear students for return to play.

Mid-sized communities with one healthcare system or hospital may find it relatively easy to identify a local doctor or practitioner to help.

Larger communities might have multiple options, but they often have fewer medical professionals willing to volunteer. Alternatively, providers might compete to be involved in school programs for political or economic reasons that may not be in the best interest of the school or the students. You need to choose Team Physicians who fit your school.

Here are a few strategies:

1. Contact the medical clinic or hospital in your local community or the next closest town and ask whether there is a physician, medical provider, or neuropsychologist with training and experience in evaluating and managing concussions (or mild TBI) who can assist you.
2. Contact your state high school activities association and ask the administrator or health and safety department what support is available to your team to identify an appropriate healthcare professional to consult with your school.
3. Contact your state or county medical society or professional associations (e.g., state neuropsychology, pediatric, and family medicine associations).
4. Use the American Medical Society of Sports Medicine Find a Doc program to find doctors trained in sports medicine and concussion management (<http://www.amssm.org/Find-a-Doc.html>).
5. Search for a neuropsychologist or psychologist with interest in sports medicine or concussions at <http://www.sportsneuropsychologysociety.com/find-a-sports-neuropsychologist/> or other neuropsychology (www.nanonline.org) or psychology association websites.