

Tool Kit for Physicians

“At least 1.4 million people sustain traumatic brain injuries in the United States each year. Of those, 75% to 90% sustain a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI) or concussion.”



Heads Up!

Physicians can play a key role in helping to prevent MTBI and improve a patient's health outcomes through early diagnosis, management, and appropriate referral. However, diagnosing MTBI can be challenging as the onset of symptoms may occur days, or even weeks, after the initial injury and the symptoms of MTBI are common to those of other medical conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and headache syndromes.

In response, CDC, in collaboration with an expert work group, recently updated and revised the 2001 edition of the “Heads Up: Brain Injury in Your Practice” tool kit for physicians. The revised tool kit contains practical, easy-to-use clinical information and tools, such as:

- The “Facts for Physicians” booklet;
- The Acute Concussion Evaluation (ACE) form;
- The ACE Care Plan;
- Fact sheets on preventing MTBI in English and Spanish;
- A palm card for the on-field management of sports-related concussion; and
- A CD-ROM with downloadable kit materials and additional MTBI resources.

The “Heads Up: Brain Injury in Your Practice” tool kit was developed to help improve clinical diagnosis and management of MTBI by providing guidance to physicians on individualized assessment, management, recovery, and referral of patients with MTBI.

The tool kit will be available free-of-charge online beginning May/June 2007.

To learn more about CDC's traumatic brain injury-related educational materials, research, and programs, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/TBI.htm>. For questions, please contact CDC's Division of Injury Response at NCIPCDIRinfo@cdc.gov.

