

APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE OFFICIAL: The New York State Public High School Athletic Association has defined the Appropriate Health-Care Official as the school medical officer.

The memo states: 1. "New York State only permits the school medical officer to clear an athlete to return to play after removal from a game for exhibiting the signs/symptoms of a concussion."
2. "If the school medical officer is not available on the sideline to allow a safe return to play, the athlete must remain out of the game until cleared by the school medical officer to return to play."

According to the Office of Professions: "the only persons who can diagnose are physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants and therefore the school medical officer who must be either a physician or nurse practitioner is the only individual who may clear the athlete to return to play. The Office of Professions has specifically indicated that athletic trainers, nurses, EMS, and other medical personnel are not authorized in NYS to perform such clearances.