



PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NFL PLAYERS

This Patient Bill of Rights for NFL Players is derived from the report, *Protecting and Promoting the Health of NFL Players: Legal and Ethical Analysis and Recommendations*, from the Football Players Health Study at Harvard University. Part 1 lists those rights that are well-established under the 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement, applicable laws, and codes of ethics. Part 2 lists those rights that are not yet clearly established, but are recommended in the report to be clarified or adopted; players and other stakeholders are encouraged to advocate for such change.

Part 1: As an NFL player, during your career, you have the right to:

1. Receive non-discriminatory and professional medical care and treatment that meets the standard of care, delivered by experts in sports medicine and other relevant specialties.^d
2. Be treated in a clean and safe environment that is sensitive to your privacy.^{b, c}
3. Have the club pay for all healthcare needed as a result of playing football for the duration of your employment for that club (you may have additional rights to have your healthcare paid for after your career is over).^a
4. Obtain a second medical opinion paid for by the club (if you first consult with the club doctor).^a
5. Have any surgery performed by the surgeon of your choice (if you first consult with the club doctor).^a
6. Access your electronic medical records at no cost to you.^d
7. Seek and receive all information reasonably necessary to understand your medical situation.^{b, c}
8. Be informed of the risks and benefits of possible treatments for your medical situation in a manner that is understandable to you.^{b, c}
9. Be informed of any information that the medical staff discloses to a coach or other club representative about your care and treatment.^a
10. Consult with the Unaffiliated Neurotrauma Consultant (who does not work for the club) during games if you believe you may have suffered a concussion.^a
11. Receive healthcare from your own doctor without informing the club (although when examined by club medical staff, the Collective Bargaining Agreement requires you to fully disclose any medical condition that might affect your ability to play football, or your contract can be terminated when next examined by the club).

Part 2: As an NFL player, during your career, you *should* have the right to the following, but additional adoption or clarification is needed:

1. Enjoy any of the rights listed here without fear of reprisal from your club or others in the NFL.
2. Be treated by medical staff that has your interests as their **exclusive** professional concern, *i.e.*, medical staff that is loyal only to you, not the club.
3. Lead decisions concerning your healthcare.
4. Have your medical condition recorded accurately and completely by medical staff.
5. Appropriate assessment and management of pain.
6. Have a meaningful choice about whether to waive certain rights concerning the confidentiality of your healthcare.
7. Be provided the identity and the role of the individuals involved in your healthcare.
8. Be informed of the purpose of any physical examination requested or performed by club medical staff.
9. Be informed by the NFL and NFLPA about the most recent and reputable research concerning player health.
10. Be informed of how your medical information might be used for research purposes.
11. Be informed of any financial or business relationships the club medical staff (or the institutions with which they are affiliated) have with the club.
12. Not practice or play if you decide it is not in the best interests of your health to do so.

^a This right is protected by the Collective Bargaining Agreement or other NFL policy.

^b This right is protected by law.

^c This right is protected by codes of ethics.

^d This right is protected by the Collective Bargaining Agreement, law and codes of ethics.