

Rules Governing the National Network of Qualified MAF Physicians

The Qualified MAF Physicians appointed by the Parties to the Settlement Agreement are highly credentialed neurologists who perform a crucial role in carrying out the Settlement Program. The Court supervising this Program has issued several Orders about how this network operates. Most recently, on April 11, 2019, the Court approved a new set of Rules Governing Qualified MAF Physicians to help this Program deliver benefits to the Settlement Class quickly and correctly by:

- 1. Providing Clear Guidance to Qualified MAF Physicians:** It is important that these doctors know exactly how they are to do their work and what the Settlement Agreement requires. Clear guidance leads to uniformity and accuracy in their diagnoses.
- 2. Reducing Processing Delays:** When Qualified MAF Physicians are doing their work correctly and their diagnoses are accurate, it reduces the number of incomplete claims and appeals, both of which cause delays in processing.
- 3. Helping the Program Run Efficiently:** With fewer incomplete claims and appeals, and fewer questions about how conditions were diagnosed, the Program can deliver benefits more quickly and accurately to those who deserve them.
- 4. Furthering the Fairness of the Program:** When all Qualified MAF Physicians follow the same rules and procedures and are held to the same standards, Players are treated similarly no matter where or when they get an MAF exam.
- 5. Getting the Medicine Right:** Players deserve to be told whether they have any of the medical conditions defined by the Settlement Agreement as “Qualifying Diagnoses.” They need to know their health conditions and deserve to be paid if they qualify for a Monetary Award.

We have posted the new set of Rules to the Settlement Website. To read them click [here](#) or go to the website, click on Documents, then click “Governing Rules” and then select “Qualified MAF Physicians.” Click [here](#) to read the Court’s April 11, 2019 Order on the significance of these Rules and the important role of Qualified

MAF Physicians in the Program.

We also added new [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (“FAQs”) and revised some existing FAQs on the Settlement Website to explain the new things in these Rules.

Here are some highlights:

- 1. 150-Mile Rule for MAF Exams:** Generally, a Player has to see a Qualified MAF Physician whose practice is within 150 miles of the Player’s primary residence. This applies only to appointments made after April 11, 2019. It does not apply to Monetary Award claims already submitted to us or examinations already done. Any appointments already made stand and do not have to be changed. Also, we may grant exceptions to this 150-Mile Rule if the Player asks us, where there is no Qualified MAF Physician close enough to him, or the wait for one is too long, or the Player already has a doctor-patient relationship with a doctor, or other circumstances seem reasonable, such as, for example where the Player has a secondary residence. There is a [form](#) available on the Settlement Website to request a waiver of the 150-Mile Rule.
- 2. Neuropsychological Testing Requirements:** If neuropsychological testing is needed, Qualified MAF Physicians are to refer the Player to a neuropsychologist who is a Qualified BAP Provider or is someone we have approved for use. The neuropsychologist’s practice must be located within 50 miles of the Qualified MAF Physician’s office. This 50-Mile Rule works just like the 150-Mile Rule above. It applies only to appointments made after April 11, 2019. It does not apply to Monetary Award claims already submitted to us or examinations already done. Any appointments already made stand and do not have to be changed. We may grant exceptions to this requirement, upon request by a Qualified MAF Physician, for the same reasons we can grant waivers to the 150-Mile Rule. The physicians will handle this with us; Players and their lawyers do not have to worry about seeking these exceptions, though of course they may ask us about it at any time.
- 3. Employment Activities of the Player:** We want all Players to be treated the same in how the Qualified MAF Physicians get information on and then consider the Player’s employment and business activities as they affect the Player’s level of impairment. A Player needs to explain to the Qualified

MAF Physician what work and business he has done over the five years leading up to the exam. There is a new [form](#) Players can use to do this. This applies only to examinations done after April 11, 2019. Players do not have to go back and redo exams already done or claims already submitted to us. If we have questions on this subject that need to be answered on existing claims, we will let those Players and their lawyers know and work with them to get them answered quickly.

- 4. Other Activities of the Player Outside the Home:** For the same reasons, Qualified MAF Physicians are to get information about the Player's social, community, recreational and other activities outside of the home around the time of the exam and how, if at all, the activities have changed over the five years before the exam. This also applies only to examinations done after April 11, 2019. Players do not have to go back and redo exams already done or claims already submitted to us. We will deal with any questions as needed on each claim, and only if needed to make sure the diagnosis is correct.
- 5. Qualifying Diagnoses that Deviate from the BAP Diagnostic Criteria:** This was the subject of the Court's Order on January 9, 2019. A Qualified MAF Physician who does not follow the strict BAP criteria when making a Level 1.5 or Level 2 Qualifying Diagnosis has to explain to us the differences and how he or she reached the Qualifying Diagnosis. This applies to all Qualifying Diagnoses made after April 11, 2019. On claims we already have and diagnoses already made, we will go back to the Qualified MAF Physician and get the explanation where we feel it is necessary. Let us handle this. Players and their lawyers do not have to do anything here on their own.
- 6. Operation and Implementation of the Network of Qualified MAF Physicians:** The Court wants us to help this network operate well. We will do our best to make that happen. We can get help from expert AAP neurologists and AAPC neuropsychologists on medical issues.
- 7. Avoiding Ethical Issues:** The Settlement Agreement prohibits a Qualified MAF Physician from working as a litigation expert witness or consultant for an Opt Out from the Settlement or his or her lawyers. We also had the question come up of whether a Qualified MAF Physician may do exams or render diagnoses on Players represented by a lawyer or law firm for whom or for which the physician currently provides services as a consulting or

testifying expert witness on any matters. To avoid the potential conflict of interest in that financial connection between a Qualified MAF Physician, who has to be independent and neutral, and a lawyer or law firm representing Players the physician is evaluating, Rule 13(k) makes it clear they cannot.

The Rules cover other areas as well. We are training the Qualified MAF Physicians on the Rules. We want those physicians to take pride in their work and be available to Players. These Rules are designed to help, not to delay things or change any eligibility requirements in the Settlement Agreement. Our fundamental goal is to pay Settlement awards to those who deserve them under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, but we cannot pay them to those who do not qualify. We treat all Settlement Class Members equally, applying the same requirements to all. If you have any ideas on how to serve these goals, or you have any questions about the Rules or anything else, we can help you. Call us at 1-855-887-3485 or send an email to us at ClaimsAdministrator@NFLConcussionSettlement.com.

This is a collaborative effort at successfully carrying out this Settlement Program. That effort never stops or slows.

NOTE: This Alert and the Rules apply to Qualified MAF Physicians. They do not apply to Qualified BAP Providers in the Baseline Assessment Program.