

## ARTICLE 39

### PLAYERS' RIGHTS TO MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT

#### *Section 1. Club Physician:*

(a) **Medical Credentials.** Each Club will have a board-certified orthopedic surgeon as one of its Club physicians, and all other physicians retained by a club to treat players shall be board-certified in their field of medical expertise. Each Club will also have at least one board-certified internist, family medicine, or emergency medicine physician (non-operative sports medicine specialist). Any Club medical physician (internist, family medicine or emergency medicine) hired after the effective date of this Agreement must also have a Certification of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Sports Medicine; any head team physician (orthopedic or medical) hired after the effective date of this Agreement must have a CAQ in Sports Medicine; and any current team physician promoted to head team physician after the effective date of this Agreement has until February 2013 to obtain a CAQ in Sports Medicine or relinquish the position.

(b) **Team Consultants.** All Clubs shall have the consultants with the following certifications:

- (i) Neurological (head trauma): Board certification in neurosurgery, neurology, sports medicine, emergency medicine, or psychiatry, with extensive experience in mild and moderate brain trauma;
- (ii) Cardiovascular: Board certified in cardiovascular disease;
- (iii) Nutrition (athletes): licensed;
- (iv) Neuropsychologist: Ph.D and certified/licensed.

(c) **Doctor/Patient Relationship.** The cost of medical services rendered by Club physicians will be the responsibility of the respective Clubs, but each Club physician's primary duty in providing player medical care shall be not to the Club but instead to the player-patient. This duty shall include traditional physician/patient confidentiality requirements. In addition, all Club physicians and medical personnel shall comply with all federal, state, and local requirements, including all ethical rules and standards established by any applicable government and/or other authority that regulates or governs the medical profession in the Club's city. All Club physicians are required to disclose to a player any and all information about the player's physical condition that the physician may from time to time provide to a coach or other Club representative, whether or not such information affects the player's performance or health. If a Club physician advises a coach or other Club representative of a player's serious injury or career threatening physical condition which significantly affects the player's performance or health, the physician will also advise the player in writing. The player, after being advised of such serious injury or career-threatening physical condition, may request a copy of the Club physician's record from the examination in which such physical condition was diagnosed and/or a written explanation from the Club physician of the physical condition.

(d) **NFLPA Medical Director.** The NFL recognizes that the NFLPA Medical Director has a critical role in advising the NFLPA on health and safety issues. Accordingly, the NFL agrees that the NFLPA Medical Director shall be a voting member of all NFL health and safety committees, including but not limited to the NFL Injury & Safety Panel and its subcommittees and shall have access to all of the same data, records and other information provided to the NFL Medical Advisor and/or any other members of such committees.

(e) **Home Game Medical Coverage-Neutral Physician:** All home teams shall retain at least one RSI physician who is board certified in emergency medicine, anesthesia, pulmonary medicine, or thoracic surgery, and who has documented competence in RSI intubations in the past

twelve months. This physician shall be the neutral physician dedicated to game-day medical intervention for on-field or locker room catastrophic emergencies.

**Section 2. Club Athletic Trainers:** All athletic trainers employed or retained by Clubs to provide services to players, including any part time athletic trainers, must be certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association and must have a degree from an accredited four-year college or university. Each Club must have at least two full-time athletic trainers. All part-time athletic trainers must work under the direct supervision of a certified athletic trainer. In addition, each Club shall be required to have at least one full time physical therapist who is certified as a specialist in physical therapy to assist players in the care and rehabilitation of their injuries.

**Section 3. Accountability and Care Committee:**

(a) The parties agree to establish an Accountability and Care Committee, which will provide advice and guidance regarding the provision of preventive, medical, surgical, and rehabilitative care for players by all clubs during the term of this Agreement. The Committee shall consist of the NFL Commissioner and the NFLPA Executive Director (or their designees). In addition, the Commissioner and Executive Director shall each appoint three additional members of the Committee, who shall be knowledgeable and experienced in fields relevant to health care for professional athletes.

(b) The Committee shall meet in person or by conference call at least three times per year, or at such other times as the Commissioner and Executive Director may determine.

(c) The Committee shall: (i) encourage and support programs to ensure outstanding professional training for team medical staffs, including by recommending credentialing standards and continuing education programs for Team medical personnel; sponsoring educational programs from time to time; advising on the content of scientific and other meetings sponsored by the NFL Physicians Society, the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Association, and other relevant professional institutions; and supporting other professional development programs; (ii) develop a standardized preseason and postseason physical examination and educational protocol to inform players of the primary risks associated with playing professional football and the role of the player and the team medical staff in preventing and treating illness and injury in professional athletes; (iii) conduct research into prevention and treatment of illness and injury commonly experienced by professional athletes, including patient care outcomes from different treatment methods; (iv) conduct a confidential player survey at least once every two years to solicit the players' input and opinion regarding the adequacy of medical care provided by their respective medical and training staffs and commission independent analyses of the results of such surveys; (v) assist in the development and maintenance of injury surveillance and medical records systems; and (vi) undertake such other duties as the Commissioner and Executive Director may assign to the Committee.

(d) If any player submits a complaint to the Committee regarding Club medical care, the complaint shall be referred to the League and the player's Club, which together shall determine an appropriate response or corrective action if found to be reasonable. The Committee shall be informed of any response or corrective action. Nothing in this Article, or any other Article in this Agreement, shall be deemed to impose or create any duty or obligation upon either the League or NFLPA regarding diagnosis, medical care and/or treatment of any player.

(e) Each Club shall use its best efforts to ensure that its players are provided with medical care consistent with professional standards for the industry.

**Section 4. Player's Right to a Second Medical Opinion:** A player will have the opportunity to obtain a second medical opinion. As a condition of the Club's responsibility for the costs of medical

services rendered by the physician furnishing the second opinion, such physician must be board-certified in his field of medical expertise; in addition, (a) the player must consult with the Club physician in advance concerning the other physician; and (b) the Club physician must be furnished promptly with a report concerning the diagnosis, examination and course of treatment recommended by the other physician. A player shall have the right to follow the reasonable medical advice given to him by his second opinion physician with respect to diagnosis of injury, surgical and treatment decisions, and rehabilitation and treatment protocol, but only after consulting with the club physician and giving due consideration to his recommendations.

**Section 5. Player's Right to a Surgeon of His Choice:** A player will have the right to choose the surgeon who will perform surgery provided that: (a) the player will consult unless impossible (e.g., emergency surgery) with the Club physician as to his recommendation regarding the need for, the timing of and who should perform the surgery; (b) the player will give due consideration to the Club physician's recommendations; and (c) the surgeon selected by the player shall be board-certified in his field of medical expertise. Any such surgery will be at Club expense; provided, however, that the Club, the Club physician, trainers and any other representative of the Club will not be responsible for or incur any liability (other than the cost of the surgery) for or relating to the adequacy or competency of such surgery or other related medical services rendered in connection with such surgery.

**Section 6. Standard Minimum Preseason Physical:** Each player will undergo the standardized minimum preseason physical examination and tests outlined in Appendix K, which will be conducted by the Club physician(s) as scheduled by the Club. No Club may conduct its own individual testing for anabolic steroids and related substances or drugs of abuse or alcohol.

**Section 7. Substance Abuse:**

(a) **General Policy.** The parties agree that substance abuse and the use of anabolic steroids are unacceptable within the NFL, and that it is the responsibility of the parties to deter and detect substance abuse and steroid use and to offer programs of intervention, rehabilitation, and support to players who have substance abuse problems.

(b) **Policies.** The parties confirm that the Program on Anabolic Steroids and Related Substances will include both annual blood testing and random blood testing for human growth hormone, with discipline for positive tests at the same level as for steroids. Over the next several weeks, the parties will discuss and develop the specific arrangements relating to the safe and secure collection of samples, transportation and testing of samples, the scope of review of the medical science, and the arbitrator review policy, with the goal of beginning testing by the first week of the 2011 regular season. Pending agreement by both parties regarding the implementation of this program of blood testing, and such other policy amendments as the parties may agree upon, the Policy and Program on Substances of Abuse and the Policy on Anabolic Steroids and Related Substances, will remain in full force and effect as each existed during the 2010 season.

## ARTICLE 40

### ACCESS TO PERSONNEL AND MEDICAL RECORDS

**Section 1. Personnel Records:** Each Club will within seven (7) days after a written request of any player, permit the player to inspect and copy his individual personnel file and any other document which objectively relates to his performance and which in turn relates to any grievance. Each Club may, at its discretion, exclude from an individual player's personnel file attorney-client privileged material, subjective coaching and scouting reports, or any other subjective material. This Section 1 shall not affect the player's rights under any grievance procedure.

**Section 2. Medical Records:**

(a) A player may examine his medical and trainers' records in the possession of the Club or Club physician two times each year, once during the preseason and again after the regular season. Any player or former player may obtain a copy of his medical or trainer's records without charge upon request during the offseason. A player's personal physician may, upon presentation to the Club physician of an authorization signed by the player, inspect the player's medical and trainers' records in consultation with the Club physician or have copies of such medical and trainers' records forwarded to such player's personal physician. Upon request by the player or player's personal physician as described in this Subsection, such records shall be provided as soon as possible, and in no event later than seven (7) business days from the receipt of the request.

(b) To the extent that a player's medical or trainer records contain information that is subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (as amended and as implemented through regulations) or other applicable laws, nothing in this Section shall be construed to restrict a player's right to access his information under such laws.

**Section 3. Electronic Medical Record System:** The NFL shall develop and implement an online, 24-hour electronic medical record system within 24 months of the effective date of this Agreement or such longer period as the parties may agree. Fifty percent (50%) of the costs of developing and implementing such system shall be a Player Benefit Cost. Once implemented and operational, the cost of maintaining the system thereafter shall not be counted as a Player Benefit Cost.

