Dear Doctor:

Re: __________________________

Thank you for your referral to the Hospital for Sick Children Centre for Craniofacial Care and Research to assess your patient with positional plagiocephaly.

At the current time we are inundated with referrals for this particular problem and this is affecting our abilities to see patients in a timely fashion. Currently our wait list for consultation in The Craniofacial Clinic is between 4-12+ weeks (this has most recently increased because of the SARS outbreak).

In an effort to deal with the overwhelming increased incidence of positional plagiocephaly in combination with limited resources, we have developed an educational tool for health care practitioners as well as a parent pamphlet. The educational package has been delivered to all physicians in the GTA to help assist in the prevention, identification and early management of positional plagiocephaly.

The following list (as outlined in the clinician’s guide) summarizes our guidelines for accepting referrals of children with positional plagiocephaly:

1. Diagnosis in question. If ipsilateral flattening is not associated with anterior positioning of the ear and forehead on the same side, then the diagnosis of positional plagiocephaly may be hard to establish.
2. Children with congenital muscular torticollis and associated positional plagiocephaly.
3. Parents who have decided to embark with molding helmet therapy following an adequate trial of early intervention strategies and conservative treatment.
The children that fall into groups 1 and 2 will be scheduled for consultation by the staff within our program. If parents choose to proceed with molding helmet therapy (after having received information regarding the treatment protocol and cost of the helmet), a referral can be faxed directly to our Orthotics Department (Fax: 416-813-8557) where a molding helmet will be custom-made. You will need to follow the progress of these patients since they will not be seen in our Craniofacial clinic. This process will ensure timely management of these patients.

The Craniofacial Program is more than happy to assess children with cranial vault asymmetry, however the diagnosis of positional plagiocephaly and the management is straightforward. If you have not received the educational package which includes: 1) the clinician’s guide to positional plagiocephaly; 2) parent pamphlet; 3) poster entitled “Why tummy time is good for my head”; and 4) an order form for printed materials, you may wish to contact the Centre for Health Information and Promotion (CHIP) at 416-813-5819 to order a copy. If you have any questions or would like to talk to me personally, do not hesitate to call. Thank you for your interest in the HSC Centre for Craniofacial Care and Research at The Hospital for Sick Children.

Unless we hear from you again, we will not institute the referral for your patient.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

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