

UC San Diego

Family Medicine Research Symposium 2026

Title

Continuity Of Care In The Age Of The Transfer Portal

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8n426864>

Authors

Leu, Amy

Contag, Alec

Saran, Jasmine

et al.

Publication Date

2026-08-12

Peer reviewed

Objective

This study assessed the experiences of physicians caring for college athletes that participate in the transfer portal. We hypothesize when athletes move from institution to institution it affects the continuity of care for the athlete.

Data and Methods

We used an online survey distributed to members of the American Medical Society of Sports Medicine to assess experiences of physicians caring for athletes using the transfer portal. Data were summarized using descriptive statistics such as percentages. Likert-scale items were analyzed as ordinal data.

Results

96% of respondents care for college-level athletes. 95% of respondents care for athletes that come through the transfer portal. 64% of physicians receive exit physical information or prior medical history less than 25% of the time. 63% of respondents felt that transfer athletes were subject to at least a few more to a lot more undisclosed medical issues, ranging from mental health disorders, concussions, surgical history, and cardiac conditions. 80% of respondents somewhat agreed or strongly agreed there should be a standardized exit process, akin to the major professional sporting organizations.

Conclusions and Implications

The transfer portal allows athletes to move between institutions but this movement fragments medical care. With little research on this issue, we aim to share provider insight to drive change and guide and policy changes in the future.