

Information for patients and carers

Child Protection Medical Process



Introduction

You have been given this leaflet because a professional has a safeguarding concern about your child or your child themselves has disclosed a concern.

Any professional who has concerns about how a child obtained an injury/harm are required to follow a process which will include a referral to Children's Social Care, contacting the police and asking a paediatric doctor to review your child as part of a Child Protection Medical.

Why is a professional concerned about my child?

Children often have injuries or health needs due to their age/development. There are however other reasons why children sustain injuries or have health needs whether this is an undiagnosed medical condition or non-accidental injury or a child at risk through neglect. Non-accidental or neglect can include injuries that are due to deliberate actions against a child or where harm has not been prevented from happening.

Even when there is a given explanation, it is important to rule out medical conditions and consider other possible explanations, so further investigation is sometimes required.

What does this have to do with children's social care and the police?

Unfortunately, some children are harmed through neglect or non-accidental injuries. It is vital that if this is the case it is dealt with at the earliest opportunity to enable the family to receive support and ensure the child is protected. A referral to Children's Social Care is by no means an accusation of non-accidental injury/neglect however it is a way of

ensuring different professionals can work together to look at how your child and family can be supported and to share relevant information.

A Social Worker will be allocated and should attend for the Child Protection medical process. Professionals will speak with the police and other agencies (e.g., school, health visitor) to obtain a full picture of any relevant information.

What will happen next & what is included in a Child Protection Medical?

Children's Social Care will contact you to discuss their involvement. The paediatrician will talk to you and your child (on their own if appropriate) and complete a full Child Protection Medical examination which may involve some of the following (Not all children will need all of these tests; only those that are clinically necessary will be carried out).

- Full body examination
- Blood tests
- X Ray or skeletal survey (a series of X-rays of all the bones in the body performed by specially trained radiographers)
- CT scan of the head
- On some occasions an MRI scan of the head and spine
- Eye specialist review (Ophthalmology review)
- Medical photography

In some situations, to ensure a child's safety while concerns are being assessed, supervised contact may be recommended. This is a protective measure and does not mean conclusions have been reached.

As an NHS Trust we do not have the right to remove your child from your care, this decision would be the Police and Children's Social Care.

When/how will I receive results from the tests?

Some results are obtained faster than others due to the nature of the examinations and some results require a full report to be compiled by an expert (e.g. skeletal survey). You will be informed once the consultant has been notified of the results. We will endeavour to keep you up to date throughout the process.

What if I do not give consent?

We will always try to seek consent and explain the process fully. In some situations, a child may be able to consent for themselves if they are assessed as having enough understanding (known as Gillick competence).

If consent is refused and professionals believe a child may be at immediate risk of harm, they have a legal duty to act in the child's best interests and involve Children's Social Care and/or the Police.

How long will the full process take?

This can be a lengthy process due to the potential involvement of several departments and experts and will depend on availability and clinic appointments. On average the physical examination takes approximately 1-2 hours however to complete the full medical assessment can take up to 48 hours or longer in some cases.

We do appreciate it can be a difficult process, and your nurse or doctor will keep you updated on what the plan is throughout the journey.

Contact details

If you need further advice or information about your child's care or the Child Protection Medical process, please speak to a member of the healthcare team looking after your child.

Before you leave the ward, staff should complete the details below, so you know who to contact if you have concerns or questions:

Social Worker Name:

Social Worker contact number:

Paediatric Consultant Name:

Contact number for ward:

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

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