



Child Protection Medical - Information for Parents

This leaflet is to help you understand why a Child Protection Medical is necessary and what will happen.

Why is a Child Protection Medical necessary?

It is not always clear how a certain bruise, cut, burn, broken bone, injury or mark on the skin has occurred in a child. Sometimes there are reasons to check that all a child's needs are being properly met. When these situations arise, it is important that thorough assessment, examination and investigations take place to find out more. The Child Protection Medical is part of this assessment. We may have to think about other children in the household as well.

The aim of the Child Protection Medical is to:

- identify any injuries or medical problems that need treatment
- exclude any medical cause for the injuries
- take account of your child's needs, environment and stage of development

Who will be involved?

Your child will be given an appointment with a senior children's doctor (paediatrician). Other professionals such as a Children's Social Worker and Police Officer will work with the paediatrician when needed.

Will I be asked for consent?

We will not examine your child without your informed consent. However if you choose not to consent to an examination that the doctor believes is necessary, then further discussion will take place with social services or the police.

What will happen?

The doctor will ask you and your child about the events that led to the need for the examination. It is normal practice to offer older children the opportunity to talk to the doctor on their own. The doctor will take a full medical history that will include questions about things such as your child's development, general health, social circumstances and family medical history.

Your child will have a full medical examination (from top to toe). If your child has any injuries, marks or bruises these will be noted, measured and drawn in the child's health record. Photographs and video recordings may be taken with your informed consent and will be kept securely as part of your child's health record.

Some tests might be required e.g., blood tests, eye tests and X-rays which may involve admission to the children's ward. You will be given further information regarding these tests if they are needed.

What happens after the Child Protection Medical?

Once all the initial test results are available (this may take a few days), the doctor will write a report to share with other people including Children's Social Services, the Police and your child's GP. The results of all the tests will be shared with you.

What if my child is admitted to hospital?

If a child is admitted to the children's ward, we encourage parents/carers to remain in hospital with their child. There may be occasions when this is not possible and other arrangements will have to be made. Once all the necessary tests have been done, a detailed discussion will take place, involving children's social services, the police and the doctor.

When your child is ready to be discharged from hospital a plan, including any necessary follow up medical appointments or further tests, will be discussed with you.

Any questions?

After reading this leaflet, please ask the doctor who will be examining your child about anything you do not understand.

Flesch Kincaid Grade level 8.6

Flesch Reading Ease 61.3