



Information for patients and carers

Child Protection

Medical Process

Introduction

You have been given this leaflet because a professional has concerns about your child's health or your child has disclosed a concern about their own health.

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 specialist 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 coming to harm through neglect. Non-accidental or neglectful harm include injuries that are because of deliberate actions against a child or where harm has not been prevented.

Even when there is an apparent explanation, it is important to rule out more serious medical conditions so further investigation is sometimes required.

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

Although it is rare, 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 looking for causes of bruising/injuries in the same way doctors look for illnesses.

A social worker will be allocated and will 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) and complete a full child protection medical examination which may involve the following:

- 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

Due to the severity of some concerns the Multi-Disciplinary Team may determine that your child can only have supervised contact with an adult approved by CSC. You may be asked to leave the ward. As an NHS Trust we do not have the right to remove your child from your care, this decision would be the police or 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?

If a professional believes that a child protection medical is required and the child or care giver refuses consent it is for the professional to determine if the child is at immediate risk of harm. If this is the case, it will be for the professional to act in the best interest of the child and contact children's social care and the police who may take emergency action to protect them.

How long will the whole 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. 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

Parent/carer or nurse to insert names of professionals involved:

Social Worker:

Social Worker contact number:

Paediatric Consultant:

Contact number for ward:

We hope this leaflet clarifies the process however if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to ask a nurse/doctor who will assist you further.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

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

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપાકરિને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ییچھیا یس ییہ ابی دست بو یسکت ہے برا ے مہر یان بو ییچھہی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعه بأ حرف كبير ة و بلغات إذا كنت تر يد مساعده في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُر جى أن تطلب الأخرى يمكن تو فير هذه المعلوما

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