**Child Protection Medical Examinations**

Standard Operating Procedures

December 2022

Dr Amal Quadri

Named doctor for child protection Wexham Park Hospital

Dr Louise Watson

Designated doctor for child protection, Berkshire East

**Referral pathway for urgent child protection medical examinations (see flow chart)**

Expected time frame examination within 24 hours of referral

Children who appear in need of urgent medical care or treatment should be referred to urgent care services without delay

Children requiring emergency medical care should be taken to the nearest hospital emergency department, via 999 ambulance if necessary.

For children not requiring urgent medical treatment, examinations will be undertaken in a planned way during working hours.

**Process**

Referrals should be made as promptly as possible, and as early in the day as possible, to allow the child to be seen in a timely way.

Consent from parent/guardian should be obtained where possible (circumstances dependent) **prior** to contacting the safeguarding team.

The referring social worker should contact the safeguarding team at Wexham Park Hospital on:

**0300 615 3879**

This line is open between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday to Friday.

When the phone is answered, the administration team will ask for these details only:

1. Referring social worker’s name and which local authority
2. Social worker mobile phone contact details and an alternative contact if possible
3. Name of child, DOB and a short sentence of their concern. ( note: this is an administrative person who will pass this information to the clinician, The clinician will then contact the social worker to discuss the case)

 If this phone line is busy or not answered between these times, please try again or leave a message specifying that a CP medical is requested. HOWEVER, only leave a message with these details below:

1. Referring social worker’s name and which local authority
2. Social worker mobile phone contact details and an alternative contact if possible.

**NO other details should be left on the voicemail messaging system. Someone will return your call to ask for more details.**

The social worker will then be contacted by a clinician to obtain further medical details and an appointment will be offered for examination by a paediatrician. EITHER at Wexham Park Hospital or at Upton hospital in Slough.

All children under 2 will be seen on the acute hospital site at Wexham Park.

Outside of 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, the social worker should ring on the next working day.

If a more urgent response is needed, the social worker should contact the on-call paediatrician via the Wexham Park Hospital switchboard to discuss.

**OUT OF HOURS** **EXAMINATIONS** **should be the EXCEPTION and will only be undertaken where it is anticipated that the medical opinion is likely to significantly alter the safety plan for the child in the short term ;ie that night.**

**Referrals under the ‘Bruising Protocol’ for bruises and injuries in non-mobile infants remain unchanged-the referrer should contact the on call paediatric team via switchboard to refer urgently.**

**Less urgent referrals, eg for chronic neglect, should be made directly to community paediatrics on**

community.paediatrics@berkshire.nhs.uk

Expected timescales for less urgent referrals would be for examination within 10-14 days

**Concerns about possible sexual abuse should be referred directly to the Solace Sexual Assault Referral Centre on 0800 9534113**