

Flowchart for health professionals noting non-mobile baby / child with a bruise or suspicious mark in the community

- If injury requires urgent medical attention arrange transfer to hospital usually by dialling '999'
- Contact emergency department and consultant paediatrician to inform of situation
- Do not delay referral to hospital to make social care referral but do ensure you and referral centre are clear about who will do this

- Seek explanation: avoid leading questions do not offer any options or suggestions about how child could have sustained mark or bruise
- If possible examine child carefully for other external injuries

Remember!
'Those that don't cruise rarely bruise'

- Research shows it is very unusual for babies under 9 months to have any bruises (Even less under 6 months)
- To be considered accidental there should be a clear plausible history of significant incident followed by an appropriate parental response

- Adequately explained injury which fits with child's developmental level AND
- No further safeguarding concerns including no concerns about supervision / safety

- Explain to parents, ensuring wider safeguarding issues discussed and document assessments and actions
- Consider undertaking a CAF to identify appropriate support

Further actions for health professional:

- Document assessments and actions in records
- Confirm any referral to social care in writing within 24 hours
- Share information as appropriate with other health professionals involved

- No explanation given OR
- Explanation does not adequately rule out possible non-accidental injury or neglect

- Health professional to inform parents of need to refer for further assessment
- Health professional to make immediate referral to Children's Social Care Duty Team
- Social Care to arrange prompt visit preferably with health professional

Further actions for social worker:

- Social worker to arrange strategy discussion with police and consultant paediatrician to discuss the need for section 47 enquiries. This will involve arranging a medical examination in most cases

If at any point you are dissatisfied with the response to your concerns, challenge decision or escalate the discussion to your safeguarding lead / named professionals