

### What if I do not agree to the medical examination?

If you or your child do not give consent to the examination and if the social worker and/or police feel an examination may be in your child's best interest, they will discuss this further with you. If they feel it is necessary they may seek a court order giving permission for your child to be interviewed or medically examined without your consent. If your child is old enough or has enough understanding to give consent, they can do so – the doctor will decide if this is possible.

### Further information

A child protection investigation can be a very stressful time for you and your family. It is important that:

- You understand what is happening.
- You and your child's views are listened to.
- If necessary, you are given help and advised on the best way you and your child can be supported during this time

### Useful contacts

*Child Protection Office at Dorset County Hospital:*  
01305 254748

*Children's Social Care Local Offices:*  
Dorchester 01305 221450

Bridport 01308 422234

Weymouth & Portland 01305 760139

North Dorset 01258 472652

Purbeck 01929 553456

NSPCC: Freephone 0808 8005000

Childline: Freephone 0800 1111

For more information about the Trust visit [www.dchft.nhs.uk](http://www.dchft.nhs.uk)



**Child protection:  
Why a medical  
examination has  
been requested  
and what happens  
next**

**Information for parents  
and carers**

## Why is this examination necessary?

A medical examination has been requested as there have been concerns raised about your child. The investigation will be led by a social worker or a police officer. Your child will be examined by a senior children's doctor (paediatrician) who has had special training for this work.

Other children in the family may need to be physically examined too.

Your or your child's permission – known as consent – will usually need to be given before the examination can take place. Your child can only consent if they are old enough and/or can understand what they are consenting to.

## What happens then?

A nurse will take your details and your child will be weighed and their height will be measured

The doctor will come and speak to you and will ask you about:

- Any injury or illness your child has had
- Their day to day health
- Their birth

- Their development
- Their immunisations (jabs)
- Any allergies
- Any regular medication
- Their behaviour and progress at school
- The family's medical history
- Who lives at home

The doctor may also speak to the social worker or police officer involved in the case.

You will also have the opportunity to talk about any health concerns you may have and to ask questions about the process.

At the examination, normally only you, your child, the doctor and a nurse or doctor chaperone will be present. Some older children sometimes prefer a friend rather than a parent to be with them. If anyone else needs to be involved, this will be discussed with you. .

## What happens during the examination?

Your child will have a full general examination (top to toe). If your child has any obvious injuries, these will be noted, measured and drawn in the

child's record. Photographs may also be taken of any injuries or wounds. If your child becomes very upset, a further discussion can then take place as to what is best to do next.

More specific investigations such as blood tests or xrays may need to be done. If these are necessary they will be discussed with you.

## What happens after the examination?

The doctor who examined your child will explain his/her findings to you and your child (depending on their age and understanding) as well as to the social worker and/or police officer involved.

The doctor will write a report which is sent to your GP and the social services/ police authority involved. Your child's health visitor or school nurse may also be sent a copy. Usually you will receive a copy of the report if you want one. We understand that it can be upsetting for parents to read all the details in the report.

The report and the hospital records may be produced as evidence in court if necessary.