



DDSCP Guidance on when to request a Neglect Medical

Neglect is defined as the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, which likely results in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance abuse.

Neglect is the most common reason for being subject to a Child Protection Plan in England.

Paediatricians should contribute to the identification and assessments of children where there are concerns about possible neglect (RCPCH CP Companion).

Paediatricians should contribute to the multi-agency assessment by taking a history, examining the child, arranging relevant clinical investigations, and providing a report of their findings.

If Children's Social Care (CSC) are aware of a child suffering from neglect, they may request a neglect medical by an appropriately trained Paediatrician (ST4+ with senior support) to help gather evidence of neglect for court proceedings or to support their safeguarding investigations.

The purpose of the neglect medical is twofold:

- 1) To provide a holistic approach to the child and his / her family. To identify and meet the **health** needs that they are able to and refer on for those they cannot meet (e.g. speech and language therapy, audiology, vision, immunisations, child and adolescent mental health service).
- 2) To identify any concerns about medical neglect, document these and provide a robust report and opinion for CSC. If neglect from any of the other neglect categories (e.g., dental / educational etc), are also identified it would be important to note these, although the Paediatrician's role is mainly to report on **medical** neglect.

When CSC have concerns about the neglect of a child, if in addition there are any of the following concerns, it may be appropriate to request a neglect medical examination;

- 1) Concerns of unmet health needs including WNBs- was not brought
- 2) Concerns of carers failing to seek medical advice / treatment for known / obvious health conditions

- 3) Concerns about poor growth or 'high risk' obesity (DDSCP Childhood Obesity Guidance) if not already under a Paediatrician who may be able to provide a report
- 4) Concerns where a family is not following a 'care plan' which has been devised by a medical, nursing or allied Health professional which is likely to negatively impact on the child's health
- 5) Concerns about dental neglect
- 6) Concerns about developmental delay
- 7) Chronic significant neglect

This includes any child under the age of 18 years.

Paediatricians can seek further guidance on neglect and medical examinations / reports via RCPCH CP Companion. [Child Protection Companion – RCPCH Child Protection Portal](#)

Other Guidance [available](#) and may be relevant:

- DDSCP How to request a neglect medical
- DDSCP Threshold document:
- DDSCP Dispute Resolution and Escalation Policy

Version Control

This document replaces all other previous published versions and should be read in conjunction with the [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures](#)

Ver	Author/s	Updated by	Signed off by	Date	Review Date
1.	Consultant Paediatrician and Designated Doctor for Derby City	-	DDSCP Policy and Procedures Group	July 2023	July 2025