

Requesting a Child Protection Medical Examination in Cases of Suspected Child Abuse Derby City, North and South Derbyshire (excluding Glossop)

Procedures to be followed for requesting medical examinations, after a strategy discussion that included social care, police and health.

If there are concern about the child's immediate health e.g. suspected fractures, bleeding, loss of consciousness, then urgent medical care should be sought via A&E or calling an ambulance if necessary.

Please refer to DDSCP [Child Protection Section 47 enquiries](#) as required

Please **read ALL** of the relevant sections

PHYSICAL ABUSE

North Derbyshire (24 hours)

- The social worker should ring Chesterfield Royal Hospital switchboard (01246 277271) and ask to speak to the **On Call Paediatric Consultant**. The case should be discussed and if agreed that a medical is needed a mutually convenient time to see the child should be arranged.
- Where possible medicals should be arranged to take place between 13.00hrs and 15.30hrs when there are staff allocated to facilitate the process. Outside this time, a safety plan may be needed.
- The exception to this is infants under 1 years who may need to be admitted regardless of timing of referral.

South Derbyshire and Derby City in hours 8.30am – 4pm Mon-Fri (excluding infants under 18 months)

- The social worker should call the Safeguarding Children Unit at Kingsway House on 01332 623730 to arrange.
- Due to room and nursing staff availability, the final appointment of the day for a medical is **15.30 hrs**.

South Derbyshire and Derby City Out of Hours (all hours outside 8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri) and children under 18 months;

Examinations by the on call Paediatric Registrar can be arranged by calling the Royal Derby Hospital (University Hospitals of Derby and Burton) on **01332 340131** and asking switchboard to page the Paediatric registrar on call.

Additional Points to note:

- The health team should be told about any specific needs of the child e.g. medication, feeding time, likely behavioural difficulties or any other issues so that account may be taken of these when arranging the medical.

- Examinations should normally be conducted within 24 hours of referral to health.
- It would be helpful that, once it becomes apparent that a medical is no longer needed or if it is not possible to attend within the time scale arranged, the relevant doctor is made aware as soon as possible.
- If an interpreter is needed, please note this is the responsibility of Children's Social Care to organise. You MUST let the medical team know at time of booking if one is being brought. If one cannot be found, then this MUST be discussed again with the medical team before attending for the medical examination.
- Please provide the family with the relevant health setting's 'Child Protection Medical Examination for Families' leaflet where possible.

[Chesterfield Royal Hospital](#)

University Hospital of Derby and Burton

For out of hours examinations:

- **Medical cover out of hours is for emergencies only** and medicals which take place outside 9am to 4pm should only be requested where there is urgent concern regarding the health of the child, or where arrangements to safeguard the child cannot be made without medical advice or opinion, or if there will be no in hours service available for over 24 hours (eg weekends / bank holidays).
- Every effort will be made on the part of medical staff to avoid delay, but there are circumstances when urgent clinical work has to take priority over a child protection medical and delay is unavoidable. This may occur at any time, but is particularly the case out of hours.
- **A person with parental responsibility must attend to sign the consent form.** If this is not possible, it must be discussed with the medical team before attending. In addition, a social worker who is familiar with the background of the child and family. Should also attend. The child's parent held record (red book) should be brought to the appointment, if at all possible.

SEXUAL ABUSE

North and South Derbyshire and Derby City

Examination for children who may have been sexually abused now all take place at the East Midlands Children and Young People's Sexual Assault Service (24 hrs);
(EMCYPSAS Tel: 0800 183 0023) <https://www.emcypsas.co.uk>

This service is based at:

Children and Young People's Suite Nottingham - Queens Medical Centre, Derby Road, Nottingham
NG7 2UH

NEGLECT

Please see DDSCP '[When to request a neglect medical](#)', PLUS DDSCP [Child Protection Section 47 enquiries](#)

North Derbyshire

Non-urgent concern about Significant Neglect – A written letter to be sent to the Named Doctor for Safeguarding Children at Chesterfield Royal Hospital requesting a neglect medical (for details of information needed in this request, see below). This request should be sent via email to the safeguarding email: CRHFT.paediatricsecretaries@nhs.net. Appointments should be given within 4 weeks from receipt of the referral letter. Time / date of the appointment will be conveyed by the CAO of the examining doctor to the social worker.

Urgent concern about Neglect – by telephone - directly to the Paediatric Consultant on call via switch board (01246 277271). Timing of such a medical will be by negotiation. All background information as above should be in writing, to arrive the day before the medical.

Derby City and South Derbyshire

Non-urgent medical assessment for neglect: Cases should be referred in writing by email to: dmh-tr.SafeguardingChildrenUnit@nhs.net. Appointments should be given within 4 weeks from receipt of the referral letter. Time / date of the appointment will be conveyed by the safeguarding office to the social worker.

Urgent: A telephone discussion should be had with the on call community paediatrician to determine the timing of the medical. All background information as above should be in writing, to arrive the day before the medical.

Information required in the written referral:

Reason for requesting a medical. Detailed current background information, including child and parental background and health, the nature of any specific concerns and any specific questions that need to be answered. The background information may include reports or minutes of meetings. Please attach the completed graded care profile if available.

Timing of assessment:

All paediatric assessments / medicals for neglect should be undertaken during normal working hours. All will aim to be seen within 4 weeks of referral.

For most children, it is preferable to see them whilst they are still living in the home environment in order to assess the impact of neglect on their health. If however, the child is removed from their home at short notice, it would be helpful if, where possible, if the health visitor or school nurse could be asked to note general appearance e.g. cleanliness and weight and length / height so that this data is available when the medical takes place and can be contrasted with the child's appearance in foster care.