

## MANAGEMENT OF GENITAL HERPES SIMPLEX IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Herpes Simplex is a virus that may infect the skin (including the genitalia) or mucous membrane in various parts of the body – commonly in the form of “cold sores” – often around the mouth. It causes clusters of painful blisters or sores. It also causes a systemic illness in babies who are vertically infected

Genital Herpes Simplex is transmitted through skin to skin contact with Herpes blisters or ulcers. It can also be acquired through asymptomatic viral shedding. In adults, it is usually sexually transmitted. The evidence base in children is small but suggests sexual contact to be the source in most cases, although horizontal transmission is possible. The virus can survive for long periods in cells in the body before becoming an activate infection.

If, after an appropriate risk assessment, a sexual health professional is assured that a young person aged 13 years and over, presenting with genital Herpes Simplex, is involved in a consensual relationship with a similar aged partner, it is not necessary to refer to Children’s Social Care. For younger children, or if there are any concerns, referrals / discussions should take place appropriately, as indicated in the flow chart.

Because it is acutely painful, it may be necessary to delay any genital samples for other sexually transmitted infections and it is preferable to defer detailed genital examination by EMCYPSAS for 4 – 6 weeks until healing has taken place, as examination in the acute phase will be distressing for a child or young person.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** (See flow chart)

### **FOR REFERRAL TO ACUTE PAEDIATRIC SERVICE**

**South Derbyshire and Derby City children:** Children’s Emergency Department Consultant at Royal Derby Hospital: 01332 786808

**North Derbyshire children:** Consultant Paediatrician on call at Chesterfield Royal Hospital: 01246 277271

### **FOR REFERRAL TO INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES (ISHS)**

**Derby City and Derbyshire County:** Health Advisor: 08003283383

### **FOR DISCUSSION WITH EAST MIDLANDS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICE (EMCYPAS):** 0880 183 0023

### **FOR REFERRAL FOR A CSA (CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE) MEDICAL**

**South Derbyshire and Derby City children:** This may be undertaken by an appropriately trained community paediatrician in South Derbyshire. To arrange, contact Safeguarding Children Unit at Kingsway House on 01332 623700 ext. 31537

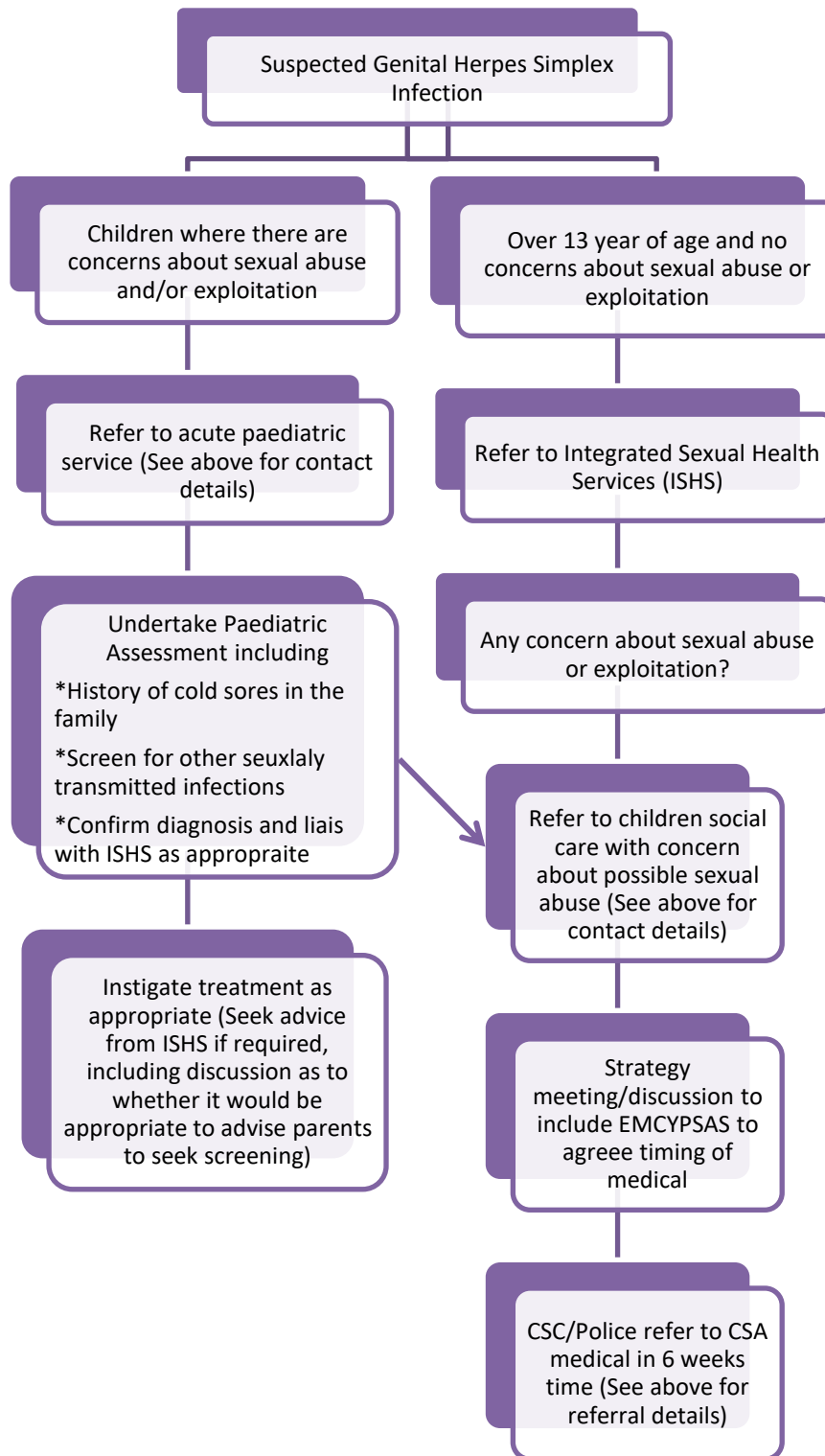
**North Derbyshire children:** refer to EMCYPSAS on 0880 183 0023

### **FOR REFERRAL TO CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE**

Starting Point (in Derbyshire) 01629 533190

Initial Response Team (in Derby City) 01332 641172, out of hours 01332 956606

**Pathway for the management of genital herpes simplex in children and young people**



**Version control - Policy to be read in conjunction with the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures**

Version	Author/s	Signed off by	Date	Review Date
1.	DDSCP Designated Doctor	DDSCP Policy and Procedures Group	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	September 2022