

Pathway of care regarding a birth mark including Congenital dermal melanocytosis (Mongolian blue spots MBS) or suspected medically induced injury (following birth etc)

Bruising in non-mobile children is rare and may indicate abuse or neglect. Birth marks, especially Congenital dermal melanocytosis (MBS) can mimic bruising. Such birth marks are sometimes not being recognised and in particular are often not documented in the child's records when first seen.

This guidance aims to reduce the number of inappropriate referrals, whilst ensuring genuine bruising is not overlooked. Most birth marks and Congenital dermal melanocytosis (MBS) are often present from birth or may appear during the first weeks of life.

Once noted, it is crucial to document them in the baby's red book and the health records as soon as possible. Marks and lesions should be drawn on a body map, and a note made of their site, size, colour and appearance. This can be done by the Midwife, GP, Paediatrician or Health Visitor, and allows further examiners to compare their findings with previous observations.

This information should also be included in the discharge notification to GP, Community Midwife and Health Visitor.

Examples of Congenital dermal melanocytosis (MBS)



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