

Child Protection Medical Assessment Referral Pathways for Tower Hamlets Childrens Social Care and Barts Health NHS Trust

Section 47 investigation of suspected physical abuse, emotional abuse
and neglect



Referral from Children's Social Care
taken by Child Protection (CP) admin
[Note A]



CP admin receives referral form from
social worker



Following receipt of referral from Social Worker, referral
discussed with senior doctor on call
[Note B]



Social worker called with appointment. Attending
interpreter and social worker details checked [Note C]



Child protection medical assessment completed



Admin staff to fax report to Childrens Social Care
Within 5 working days of the child protection medical. (Note D)

Requests for child protection medicals must be directed to: Wellington Way Centre, Mon – Fri 9am-5pm, 0208 980 3510

Outside of these hours the request must be directed to the on call paediatric registrar via the Royal London Hospital switchboard.

Notes:

A: Instructions for completing Recording Form

- The 'Child Protection Medical Assessment Referral Form' should be completed by the Social Worker (appendix 1).
- Every section needs to be completed
- Separate forms (with separate version of allegations and events) recorded for each sibling.
- **Email referrals for child protection medical assessments without telephone contact by the Social workers are not acceptable.**
- The secure nhs.net email (btl-tr.CPMEDICALS@nhs.net) must be used to receive confidential patient information.

Calls received after 3.30pm cannot be allocated on the same day due to closure of Wellington Way centre at 5pm.

B: Process following receipt of referral form

All child protection assessments should be carried out within timescales appropriate to the type of abuse and the requirements for collection of evidential samples. This is as per Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) guidelines published in Child Protection Companion 2013, see below:

- Physical injury: within 24 hours
- Acute sexual assault: as soon as possible to obtain forensic evidence and prevent pregnancy and infection
- Historic sexual abuse, neglect or emotional abuse: the referral should be assessed according to clinical need and requirement of the child protection process. Children should not be kept waiting for more than 10 working days from the point of referral, unless there are clear mitigating factors agreed by all parties
- Where police investigation or protection from harm is required: within 24 hours

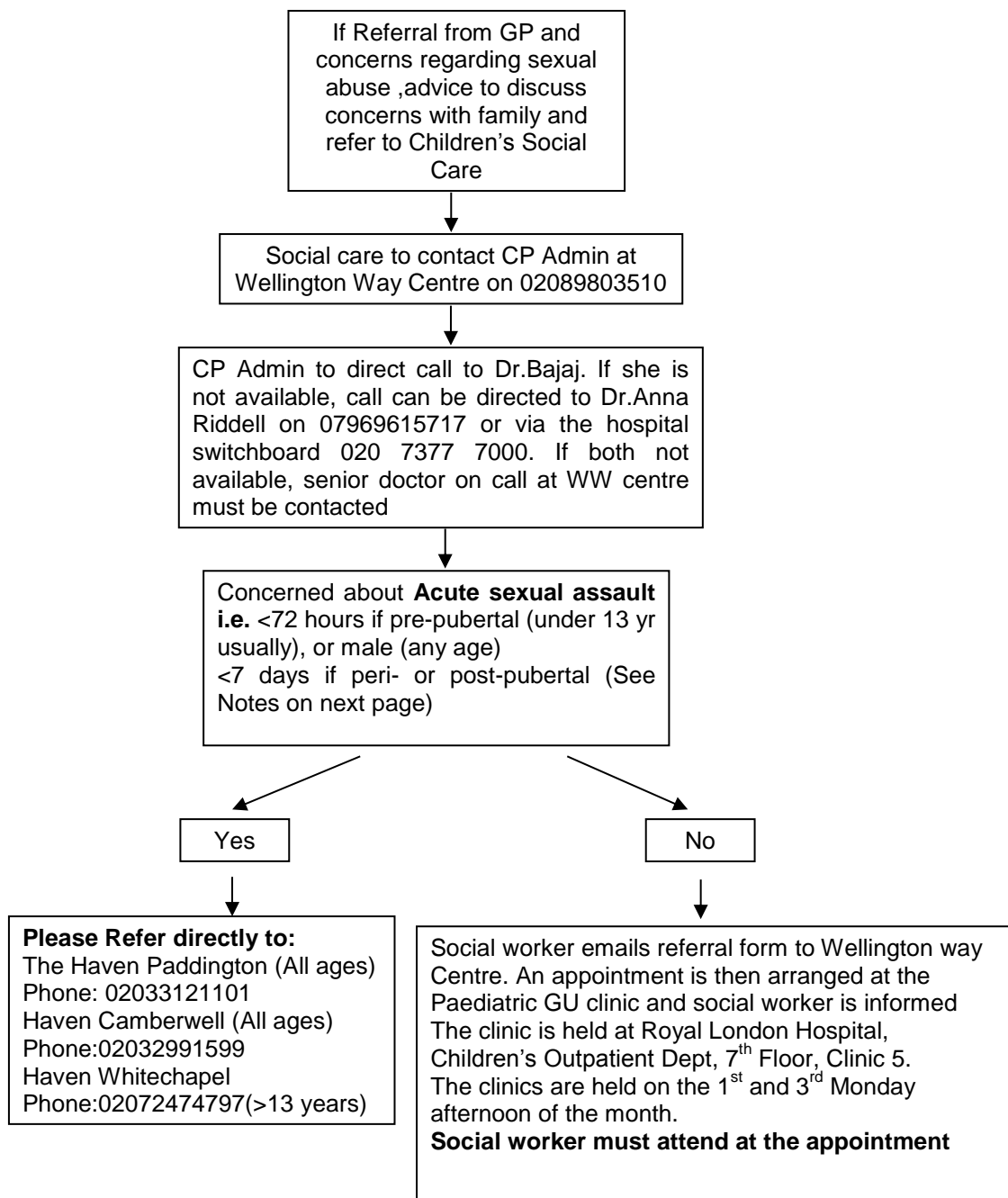
C: Contact with social worker and confirming organisation for medical assessment

- Following confirmation of date, time, room and examining doctor, the Social worker is emailed

D. Admin process following completion of report

- If before 5pm, admin staff will fax the report the same day to Social Care
- A copy of the medical report is also sent to:
GP, School Nurse/Health Visitor if parents have consented to this.

Alleged or suspected Sexual Abuse (e.g.sexual assault, vaginal bleeding, genital warts etc)



Please also see “Notes” below

Notes

For acute sexual assaults that have taken place within the previous 72 hours, referrals need to go to The Haven in Paddington or Camberwell, a specialised unit where an urgent examination can be undertaken and forensic samples can be collected. Social Care/GP should also inform the police (101) or the CAIT (Police Child Abuse Team based at Cam Road, Stratford) on 02082176552.

Prepubertal girls aged less than 13 years, Male child up to 17 years age

Less than < 72 hours following acute sexual assault (vaginal intercourse, digital penetration, anal or oral abuse)

Child should be seen at the Haven as soon as possible (i.e. for the purposes of obtaining DNA evidence and recording injuries).

Post-pubertal girls aged 13 – 17 years

Less than 7 days following acute sexual assault (vaginal intercourse)

< 48 hours following digital/oral penetration

< 72 hours following anal intercourse

They should be seen at the Haven as soon as possible (i.e. for the purposes of obtaining DNA evidence and recording injuries).

'Non-urgent' cases

Cases which do not meet the above definition are treated as non-urgent/classed as historical sexual abuse (i.e. for the purposes of obtaining DNA evidence). In non-urgent cases, the child should be discussed with Dr Monika Bajaj, the Named doctor for child protection in Tower Hamlets, Community Health Services. In her absence Dr. Anna Riddell should be contacted via the Royal London Hospital Switch Board (02034165000). If both can't be contacted, the Community Paediatrician on call should be contacted, to determine when and where medical examination should take place.

For alleged sexual abuse where there is no concern of recent assault, the '**Child Protection Medical Assessment Referral Form**' should be completed and emailed by the Social worker to CP admin

All referrals are seen at the Paediatric Genitourinary (GU) Clinic, 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of the month at the Royal London Hospital, Children's outpatient department, Clinic 5, Room 8. This clinic is equipped to carry out special examinations and collect appropriate samples to address alleged sexual abuse. **Social worker must attend the appointment and bring an interpreter, if this necessary.**

Follow up

Children under 13 years who are seen at the Haven will be referred for follow up in the Paediatric GU clinic at the Royal London Hospital. Referrals will be sent to Wellington Way and triaged by Dr Bajaj. If she is not available Dr. Anna Riddell must be informed.

Children and young people over 13 years should be referred to Young Person's worker at the Haven Whitechapel.

Appendix 1

Specialist Services for Children
Wellington Way Centre
1a Wellington Way
Bow E3 4NE

Tel: 020-8980 3510
Fax: 020-8981 9298

Email: btl-tr.cpmedicals@nhs.net

Child Protection Medical Assessment Referral Form

Please send form to above email address and follow up with a phone call to
Child Protection Admin staff at Wellington Way Centre

Date:

Time:

Details of Child:

Name:

D.O.B:

Age:

NHS Number:

Address:

Child's G.P & Address:

School/Nursery (if applicable):

Where child is at present:

Details of Incident:

Details of Family

Father's name & Date of birth:

Mother's name & Date of birth:

Siblings name & Date of birth:

Consent for Child Protection Medical from person with Parental Responsibility:

Yes/No

If subject to CP Plan/Looked After , please provide copy of plan or health assesment reports by fax/email

Previous Child Protection Assessments: If yes, please provide details

Police involvement (Name and Phone number) and outcome of Strategy meeting:

Details of Social Worker (Name and Phone number):

Fax Number for sending Child Protection report:

Checklist for medical assessment

Is an interpreter required by the child or family member? Yes/No

Children's Social Care has to organise interpreters where necessary. If not, the medical assessment may not be able to be completed.

Please ensure that the allocated social worker attends the medical assessment

The social worker attending the assessment has to be aware of circumstances regarding referral/background information

If there is more than one child attending, please ensure that there are enough social workers/supervising adults also attending for supervision of children, as there are no nurses/staff to support the clinic at Wellington Way Centre