



Child Protection Medicals - Professionals Practice briefing

Decision Making

Whether a child protection medical is required should be discussed at every child protection strategy meeting, including whether any other children in the home may require a medical assessment.

The rationale for the decision making and the agreed outcome must be clearly recorded as part of the strategy discussion record.

At any time, if this decision is reviewed or changes, this should also be clearly recorded.

Reasons for referral

There are a number of reasons why a Child Protection Medical assessment can be requested, as part of a child protection investigation. These include:

- Disclosure of physical or sexual abuse
- Unexplained marks or injuries
- A child or young persons development is being impacted by the care the child receives (chronic neglect)
- A child or young person may be experiencing extra familial harm

Additional Information

Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare - Community paediatrics (Child protection medical assessment leaflet):

<https://hrch.nhs.uk/services/search-services/community-paediatrics>

London Borough of Hounslow Children's Services Procedure Manual:

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/hounslow/cs/index.html>

Child Protection Medical

A child protection medical is a holistic assessment of a child or young persons physical and emotional health, including the exploration of any unmet health needs.

A child protection medical can be requested by a social worker or police officer, in response to significant safeguarding concerns for a child or young person.

Consent is required for a child protection medical assessment to take place.

Referral Pathways

There are differing referral pathways, dependant upon the age of the child or nature of concern.

Physical abuse and neglect:

For babies under 2, a child protection medical will need to be arranged with paediatricians at a local hospital. Children over 2 will need to be referred to HRCH Community team to request a child protection medical.

Any concerns regarding sexual abuse, for a child of any age, have a separate referral pathway.

Information sharing

The full child protection medical report will be shared with the child or young persons GP/school nurse/health visitor, the social worker and the police.

The content of this report should be used to inform social work assessments, and case conference reports completed by Health, Police and Social Workers.

Details of this report could also be used as evidence, as part of any police investigation.

Immediate Care

Child protection medicals are not emergency care assessments or treatment.

If a child or young person requires immediate medical attention due to a serious injury or becomes seriously unwell, they should be taken to the nearest hospital or you should call 999.