

Child Protection Medicals



What is the Background?

A paediatric medical assessment is an essential component of a child protection investigation. It is a comprehensive holistic assessment that includes clinical history and examination.

“The investigation and management of a case of possible deliberate harm to a child must be approached in the same systematic and rigorous manner as would be appropriate to the investigation and management of any other potentially fatal disease.” (Victoria Climbié Inquiry)

Where Can I Get More Information?

- [Warwickshire Interagency Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- [General Medical Council](#)

When Must Medicals be Considered?

A medical assessment must always be considered when there is an allegation, a suspicion or a disclosure of child abuse involving a suspicious injury, suspected sexual abuse and/or serious neglect. A strategy meeting or discussion will determine, in consultation with the paediatrician, the need and timing for the assessment.

What About Consent?

Consent can be obtained from; a child or young person who has the maturity and understanding to make the decision, a person with parental responsibility if the child or young person does not have the capacity to give consent or the courts – for example, the family courts or the High Court. If a child is on care order the local authority can provide consent

What is Their Purpose?

They ascertain whether there is any medical evidence to support the existence or extent of abuse or other serious health needs and, if necessary, to treat the child.

A medical assessment will be necessary when there is any of the following apply:

What About Non-Accidental Injury (NAI)?

Where NAI is suspected by a health professional a Strategy discussion must always take place with Police, CSC, and the referring health professional. This may not result in a section 47 enquiry, but supervision arrangements should be considered. This discussion will also determine the need and timing of a child protection medical if one is deemed necessary

- A reasonable suspicion of significant harm to a younger or vulnerable child
- A serious injury and assault is established or considered likely
- Inconsistencies in the explanations given
- Evidence of previous injuries
- Indications of detectable previous injuries, or neglect, or other suspicious physical presentations
- An allegation of sexual abuse

7 Minute briefing