

# Child Protection Medical Information for Parents and Carers

This information leaflet is designed to inform parents/ carers what a Child Protection Medical entails and why it is necessary.

It is not always possible to know what has caused a mark to a child. It is therefore important appropriate assessments, examinations and investigations are undertaken. This is all managed by the Children Act 1989, Social Workers and Police are involved in deciding if a Child Protection Medical is required, in line with Safeguarding Procedures.

## Why does my child need a Child Protection Medical?

A Child Protection Medical is needed when there are concerns your child may have an injury that cannot be explained or the explanation does not fit with the injury; or there may be concerns about your child's general physical health and well-being. The Doctor will be an experienced Paediatrician who has specialist training.

## What happens at the Child Protection Medical?

Your consent for the Medical and any future tests is obtained before the process starts. The doctor will take a full medical history and examine your child, from top to toe. If there are any injuries, these will be documented and photos may be taken. The tests required will depend on the injury/concern and the age of your child. Sometimes this can be conducted as an outpatient but sometimes your child will need to be admitted to the children's ward for further tests and checks. If there are other children in the family, they may also need a review.

## How long will the Child Protection Medical take ?

If the medical is completed as an outpatient and your child is not required to be admitted to hospital, it is likely to take 2-3 hours. If a hospital admission is required for more tests, then it is likely to take a few days. If your admission is over a weekend there is likely to be periods of waiting and the required tests may not happen until the next business day.

## Tests that may be required

### General examination -

Your child will have a full general examination (top to toe). If your child has any injuries, marks or bruises these will be noted, measured and drawn in the child's records. Photographs may also be taken.

### Blood tests -

All ages of children may need to have blood tests. This is to look for conditions which may make your child more prone to bruising/bleeding and to look at bone and general health.

### Eye test -

This is to examine the back of the eye and is completed by an eye specialist.

### Skeletal Survey -

Children under 2 years of age may need to have this, it requires an admission to hospital. It involves a series of x-rays of different bones to look for fractures/disease. The survey will need to be repeated 11-14 days after the first one. This test is unlikely for children over 2.

### CT Head Scan -

Children under 2 years of age may need to have this. This will also require an admission to hospital as sedation is sometimes required. This will be completed if there is a concern about a head injury.



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# What happens after the Child Protection Medical?

The Doctor is required to write a report to share with Children's services and Police. A copy of the report will also be sent to your child's GP. You will not receive a copy of the report, however, results of any test/procedures will be shared with you.

# What happens if my child is admitted to hospital?

You will be encouraged to remain in hospital with your child, however there may be occasions when this is not possible. This will be fully explained to you. As mentioned above Hospital admissions can take a number of days. Prior to discharge a plan will be made, including any necessary follow up appointments or further investigations. Children's services will be part of this plan and sometimes the police will also have input.

# Communication

The Doctor and/or Nursing staff are available to answer your questions. If you are not happy with any aspect of your child's care during the Child protection medical and possible hospital stay, please inform the Doctor or Nurse.

We completely understand it is upsetting to have concerns raised about your child's safety and well-being and we know that child protection investigations can make people anxious. It is important that you understand what is happening, you and your child's views are listened to and you are given any help or support you need. It is important you work with us during the review process. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to the Doctor.

## Useful information

### Children's services

- Blaenau Gwent 01495 315700
- Caerphilly 08081001727
- Monmouthshire 01291 635669
- Newport 01633 656656
- Torfaen - 01495 762200

### Grange University Hospital - children's Ward

- 01633 493939
- 01633 493940
- 01633 493941

### NSPCC

[Keeping children safe | NSPCC](#)  
[0808 8005000](#)

### Child Line

[Childline | Childline](#)  
[0800 1111](#)

### NYAS

[Home | NYAS | National Youth](#)  
[Advocacy Service](#)  
[0808 0801001](#)



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