

# Safeguarding children - initial response and investigations

Emergency Department - Children's Services

## Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If a healthcare professional is concerned about a child's welfare, they have a duty to report it.

If concerns are raised it is important that they are investigated thoroughly. The law says that professionals from health, police and social care have to work together and share information in order to safeguard the welfare of children.

Although this can be upsetting for those with parental responsibility, the child's wellbeing and welfare is paramount.

The following are standard procedures that are followed for any child presenting with unexplained injuries.

## What happens when a health professional is concerned about unexplained injuries to a child?

The health professional makes a referral to children's social services. Depending on the nature of the concern, the child is examined by a professional with appropriate expertise. This is a top to toe examination of the child in the presence of social services and the police. Medical photographs will be taken with parent's permission.

Following medical examination, the doctor may request blood tests, a skeletal survey, scans and examination of the eye(s).

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## Blood Tests



Blood tests are requested to see if your child has a bleeding problem that may cause a tendency for them to bruise easily.

## Eye Examination



In children, particularly in babies, examination of the eyes by a trained eye doctor may be requested to ensure injuries to the back of the eyes are not missed.

## X-Rays and Scans



Depending on what injuries have been seen or are suspected, further investigations may be required which include X-rays, Computed Tomography (CT) scan or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans.

As part of the investigation it is essential to identify any injuries. In younger children and babies, injuries can be difficult to find. For example, bruising on the surface of the brain can occur without any apparent injury to the outside of the head. Similarly, bones may be broken without any obvious external signs. X-rays and scans can help to diagnose these injuries.

Sometimes sedation may be used to help keep your child still (please request CT Scan Under Sedation leaflet for further information).

In children under one year the examination includes computed tomography (CT) scan of the brain.

As these are specialist investigations the report will not be available until a specialist has reviewed the scans. This may take up to four days.

## Next Steps

Once the medical examination and all the necessary tests have been done and the results are available, a multi professional meeting will take place to determine the next course of action.

If you have any further questions please speak to staff involved in your child's care.

## Useful contacts

<https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/keeping-your-child-safe/child-protection-and-safeguarding-resources-parents>

## **English**

**If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.**

**If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.**

## **Lithuanian**

**Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.**

**Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.**

## **Polish**

**Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.**

**Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.**

## **Punjabi**

**ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।**

**ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।**

## **Romanian**

**Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.**

**Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.**

## **Traditional Chinese**

**如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。**

**如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。**