

Arranging a child protection medical

If child abuse is suspected

If a professional suspects abuse, a referral must be made to the local authority in the area where the child lives. In the Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW) region, in- hours referrals are made via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASHs) or the Children's Resource Centre (CRS) in Southampton. Out of hours, referrals are made to the children's social care Emergency Duty Teams.

If a professional believes that a child may be at risk of significant harm, they should both telephone the MASH/CRS, or out of hours Emergency Duty Teams, and fill in an interagency form (except in Southampton where a telephone conversational model is used)

Contact details and forms for MASHs/CRS and out of hours services in the HIOW region can be found on the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) procedures website:

<https://hipsprocedures.org.uk/>

If a child is unwell and needs immediate medical attention, they should be sent to an Emergency Department, and the referrer should let the relevant MASH/CRS/out-of-hours service know where the child has gone.

When should a child protection medical assessment be considered?

Physical abuse -Medical assessment is usually indicated where physical abuse is suspected and there are injuries that might be seen. In children under the age of 24 months a skeletal survey and other investigations may be carried out to look for hidden injuries.

Non-mobile infants - If the child is a non-mobile infant and physical abuse is suspected, the infant must arrive for the medical appointment within 4 hours of referral to MASH. It is better for these children to be seen by in-hours services than by hospital duty paediatricians who have a range of patients to see and who are not always able to prioritise safeguarding assessments. Therefore if a referral comes into MASH, in-hours services must be alerted **as soon as possible**. Please see [HIPS procedures injuries in non-mobile infants](#) for more information, including the '[protocol for the management of actual or suspected bruising or other injury in infants who are not independently mobile](#)'.

Sexual abuse- Medical assessment may be indicated for children where contact sexual abuse is suspected. For more detail about referrals for medical assessments in suspected child sexual abuse (CSA) please see [HIPS procedures CSA medical assessments: 'guide to medical examinations in suspected child sexual abuse'](#).

Neglect - Medical examination may sometimes be indicated in severe neglect where the child has physical signs that need to be documented by a doctor. If there are no immediate signs, and the child is to be accommodated by the local authority, an early Initial Looked After Child' medical assessment may be more appropriate.

Siblings -Siblings/household contacts of children found to have injuries suspicious for physical abuse may be examined to look for evidence of physical abuse in them, especially if they are under the age of two years and have not been undressed by a professional or foster carer, and there is concern that they could have undisclosed injuries. Twins of children undergoing skeletal survey for suspected physical abuse should always be examined. Other siblings should be considered for examination on a case-by-case basis. Please see [HIPS guidance on medical assessment of siblings and household contacts in suspected physical abuse](#).

Fabricated or induced illness (FII) - Children with suspected FII are seen on a different pathway. Please see [HIPS procedures](#) for [HIPS FII guidance](#)

Special circumstances - There are different pathways to arrange medicals in certain circumstances where it isn't yet established whether the threshold is met for section 47 enquiries. Please see separate guidance on undetermined marks and for genital warts and herpes.

Referral for a child protection medical assessment

Only police and children's social care can refer for child protection medical assessments. Health practitioners can advocate for a medical and they should let MASH/CRS/out-of-hours service know if they believe a medical is needed. Any practitioners can phone the medical services directly if they want advice.

The tables below give contact details for the medical services

- Table 1: In hours (Monday to Friday, office hours)
- Table 2: Out-of-hours (evenings, night-time, weekends and public holidays)

Health service contact details can also be found on the back of the [Child Protection Medical Request form](#) on [HIPS procedures child protection medicals](#)

Who should attend the medical?

The child should attend with someone who has parental responsibility (PR) and who can give a medical history. If it is not appropriate for a parent to attend, arrangements must be made for the paediatrician to speak to them directly so that a medical history and consent for examination can be obtained. Social workers and police officers cannot obtain consent on behalf of the examining clinician and standard forms giving foster carers permission to take children to medical appointments will not cover a child protection medical assessment. Social workers should bring or send a chronology and other appropriate information. They should attend the medical so that a strategy or multiagency discussion can be held immediately after the medical, with any safety plans or other actions agreed and communicated to children and their parents/carers. Police officers may attend if there is a joint investigation. In general, agency professionals would be present for the medical history, but not for the medical examination.

When should children be seen out of hours?

Children should be seen out-of-hours if they have immediate medical needs that need to be addressed, in which case they should be directed to the Emergency Department of the nearest hospital.

If the referral is primarily for a safeguarding medical assessment, social workers should complete a Child Protection Medical Request form and telephone the paediatric consultant on call in the local hospital to discuss a suitable time for the child to be seen.

Non-mobile infants should be seen within four hours of referral to MASH. If the infant is medically well, they may sometimes have an initial assessment out-of-hours with the full child protection medical to be completed the next day. In these circumstance an overnight safety plan is needed, whether or not the infant is admitted to hospital.

Other infants and children should be discussed on a case-by-case basis. In evenings or night-time, If the child is mobile and not in need of urgent medical care, the hospital paediatrician may advise that the child be seen the next day. Medical services should ensure that children are seen before any injuries are likely to disappear.

After the medical

Immediately after the medical, the paediatrician will discuss their findings with the social worker (and police officer if applicable) and then with the child and their carers. If a strategy discussion has been held and a section 47 investigation is underway, the paediatrician will issue a Preliminary Paediatric Opinion Form (PPOF). A full child protection medical report will then be completed within 10 working days.

Table 1: IN HOURS- referrals must be made by telephone to the appropriate medical team, with appointment times agreed. In addition the Child Protection Medical Request form (see [HIPS procedures child protection medicals](#)), should also be sent by email. Please note that emails may not be accessed routinely.

HEALTH SERVICE CONTACT	NOTES
Southampton and SW Hants HIOW Healthcare NHS FT Magnolia clinic 0300 123 6662 childprotectionadmin@solent.nhs.uk	<p>This service sees children for suspected physical abuse and CSA. Calls are taken by an administrator. A safeguarding children's nurse may call you back to ask for more information. If you need to speak to the paediatrician, please let the administrative staff or nurse know.</p> <p>Appointment times must be agreed in advance. A social worker should attend the medical assessment. Referrals must be received by 3pm and children must be in the Magnolia Clinic by 4pm for a medical assessment the same day.</p>
North Hampshire Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Winchester and Basingstoke hospitals) Tel: 01256 313687 childprotectionmedicals@hhft.nhs.uk	<p>This service sees children for suspected physical abuse and CSA by different paediatric teams. Call are taken by an administrator. A safeguarding children's nurse may call you back to ask for more information. If you need to speak to the paediatrician, please let the administrative staff or nurse know.</p> <p>Appointment times must be agreed in advance. A social worker should attend the medical assessment. CSA medicals are carried out in the Kennet clinic in Basingstoke (unless forensic DNA samples are needed – see SARC below)</p>
Portsmouth and SE Hants HIOW Healthcare NHS FT Coral Clinic 0300 300 2013 childprotectioneast@solent.nhs.uk	<p>This service sees children for suspected physical abuse and CSA. Calls are taken by an administrator. A safeguarding children's nurse may call you back to ask for more information. If you need to speak to the paediatrician, please let the administrative staff or nurse know.</p> <p>Appointment times must be agreed in advance. A social worker should attend the medical assessment. The in-hours service operates 8.30-5pm, children must be in the Coral Clinic by 4.30pm for a medical assessment the same day.</p>
Isle of Wight St Mary's Hospital 01983 822099 – ask for duty paediatric consultant on call	<p>This service sees children for suspected physical abuse.</p> <p>For CSA medicals, please contact the Portsmouth and SE Hants service</p> <p>Appointment times must be agreed in advance. A social worker must attend the medical assessment so that a safety plan can be agreed.</p>
North East Hampshire Surrey Child & Family Health, HCRG Care Group 07717 426704 (Main number) 0300 247 0025 (Office number if unable to access mobile (option2))	<p>This service sees children for suspected physical abuse. (CSA medicals for NE Hampshire are carried out by the North Hants service (see above)) Appointment times must be agreed in advance. A social worker should attend the medical assessment</p>
The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for CSA referrals Tel: 0300 123 6616 admin.treetops@solent.nhs.uk .	<p>In addition to the routes above, The SARC is a single point of contact for all CSA medicals and children will be seen in the SARC centre itself if DNA forensic samples are needed. In general, if the last episode of abuse was within 7 days it may be quicker to phone SARC directly, if it was more than 7 days ago, it may be quicker to phone the clinics above directly, but either route will get the referral to the right place. Police and social workers should attend the assessment.</p>

Table 2: OUT OF HOURS - Please contact the service by telephone to agree an appropriate time for the child to attend. Agree what email the [Child Protection Medical Request form](#) should be sent to OR please bring a hardcopy of the form.

HEALTH SERVICE CONTACT	NOTES
Southampton and SW Hants University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust 02380 777 222.	Suspected physical abuse Ask for the 'duty paediatric consultant on call' Time of arrival will be agreed, but please be aware that if other medical emergencies come in there may be a wait for the child to be seen. A social worker should attend the medical assessment.
North Hampshire Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Royal Hampshire County Hospital Winchester: 01962 863535 Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital: 01256 473202	Suspected physical abuse Ask for the 'duty paediatric consultant on call' Time of arrival will be agreed, but please be aware that if other medical emergencies come in there may be a wait for the child to be seen. A social worker should attend the medical assessment. Please also send a copy of the Child Protection Medical Request form to the safeguarding team childprotectionmedicals@hhft.nhs.uk for monitoring purposes (this email will not be accessed out of hours)
Portsmouth and SE Hants Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth 02392 286000	Suspected physical abuse Ask for the 'duty paediatric consultant on call' Time of arrival will be agreed, but please be aware that if other medical emergencies come in there may be a wait for the child to be seen. A social worker should attend the medical assessment. Please send a copy of the Child Protection Medical Request form to the safeguarding team Safeguarding.ChildrenTeam@porthosp.nhs.uk for monitoring purposes (this email will not be accessed out of hours)
Isle of Wight St Mary's Hospital 01983 822099 -- ask for duty paediatric consultant on call	Suspected physical abuse Ask for the 'duty paediatric consultant on call' Time of arrival will be agreed, but please be aware that if other medical emergencies come in there may be a wait for the child to be seen. A social worker should attend the medical assessment.
North East Hants Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust: Frimley Park Hospital 0300 614 5000	Suspected physical abuse Ask for the 'duty paediatric consultant on call' please be aware that if other medical emergencies come in there may be a wait for the child to be seen. A social worker should attend the medical assessment.
All HIPS areas:	suspected child sexual abuse where forensic samples might be indicated Sexual Assault referral Centre (SARC) single point of contact: 0300 123 6616. SARC will contact the paediatrician and/or sexual offences examiner on call. Police and social workers should attend the assessment. Please send the Child Protection Medical Request form to SARC email: admin.treetops@solent.nhs.uk If forensic DNA samples are not indicated, please telephone the SARC single point of contact or the in- hours clinics asap the next working day (see table 1)

APPENDIX: Geographical area covered by the medical teams across HIOW

Southampton and SW Hants: Local authority areas of Southampton City and areas of West Hampshire as below. Covered by the Magnolia clinic (HIOW Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) in-hours and by University Hospitals Southampton NHS Foundation Trust out of hours . Out of hours CSA medicals please contact Treetops. (See tables above for contact details)

Ampfield	Bransgore	Fawley	Marchwood	Ringwood*
Ashley	Brockenhurst	Fordingbridge*	Milford on Sea	Romsey
Awbridge	Burley	Hamble	Netley Abbey	Rownhams
Barton on Sea	Bursledon	Hardley	Netley Marsh	Sherfield English
Bartley	Cadnam	Hedge End	New Milton	Southampton City
Bashley	Calmore	Holbury	North Baddesley	Sway
Blackfield	Calshot	Hordle	Nursling	Totton
Boldre	Chilworth	Hythe	Ower	West End
Botley	Copythorne	Lowford	Pennington	West Wellow
Braishfield	Dibden	Lymington	Plaitford	Woodlands
Bramshaw	East Wellow	Lyndhurst		

*Fordingbridge and Ringwood case-by-case basis. Some CYP seen by North Hants services

North Hampshire: Local authority areas of Winchester, Basingstoke, Eastleigh and North Hampshire. Covered by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in hours and out of hours. Out of hours CSA medicals please contact Treetops. (See tables above for contact details)

Portsmouth and SE Hants: local authority areas of Portsmouth, Havant, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport. Covered by the Coral Clinic (HIOW Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) in-hours and by Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust out of hours. Out of hours CSA medicals please contact Treetops. (See tables above for contact details)

Isle of Wight: Local authority area of Isle of Wight covered by in hours and out of hours. CSA medicals are carried out by the Portsmouth and SE Hants service in-hours. Out of hours CSA medicals please contact Treetops. (See tables above for contact details)

North East Hampshire: Local authority area of NE Hampshire covered by Surrey Child & Family Health, in-hours and by Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust out-of-hours (see tables above for contact details). CSA Medicals are carried out by the North Hampshire Service in hours. Out of hours CSA medicals please contact Treetops. (See tables above for contact details)

Treetops Sexual Assault Referral Centre SARC - Covers all areas across HIOW for CSA medicals – children can be referred to locality clinics or to **Single point of contact:** 0300 123 6616. Email: admin.treetops@solent.nhs.uk. See: [HIPS procedures CSA medical assessments](#)