



Hampshire
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership



Bruising Protocol advice during coronavirus

1. If any professional (from across the multi-agency partnership) is sent a digital image of a skin mark directly from a parent or caregiver we recommend that the baby is seen in person for a full physical examination by an appropriate health professional (for example, midwife, health visitor or GP).
2. If a health professional is asked for a **second opinion** on a **probable birthmark** by another health colleague, and is sent a digital image, we recommend that the child is seen in person for a full physical examination for most situations.
3. In some situations, however, digital images may enable a health professional to make a correct diagnosis of a birthmark and avoid the need for the child to be examined in person. An example might be a large capillary haemangioma (strawberry birthmark). If there is any uncertainty the child should be seen in person for a full physical examination. The use of digital images should only be considered a **temporary approach** during coronavirus.
4. **Otherwise, it is business as usual. If any professional thinks a skin mark on a baby could be a bruise, they must refer to Children's Services under the bruising protocol in the usual way. Children's Services will then arrange a physical examination in person with a consultant paediatrician.**

Simon Jones

On behalf of HIPS Designated Doctors for Safeguarding Children

Updated: 10 January 2022