

Going for a child protection medical

Parents please read through this summary with your child



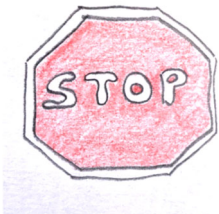
Why am I being seen today?

Someone is worried that you might have been hurt. They have asked for you to be seen by a children's doctor.



Remember:

- Everyone is there just to help you.
- You can ask any questions you like.
- You can ask to bring an adult you trust with you.
- You can bring your favourite game, toy or book.
- You can ask to speak to the doctor on your own.
- The check **doesn't** hurt. You can say no or stop at any time.
- It's normal to feel a bit nervous, but we are there to listen to you and to help keep you safe.



Before the doctor sees you:

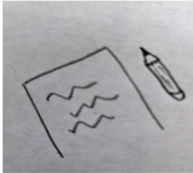
You can choose who you want to be in the room with you when you are checked over, like a family member or an adult you trust. Someone will let you and your parent or carer know where to come and why they want you to see a doctor.



Who will I see?

When you and your parent or carer come to the hospital, there will be a children's doctor and a children's nurse. There might be other adults there as well, such as a social worker. They will tell you who everyone is.

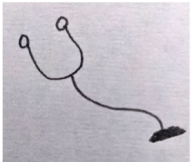
What will happen at the examination?



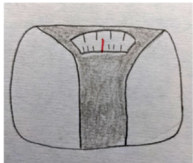
Before the doctor starts they will explain what will happen and will ask for your parent's or carer's written permission, and yours if you are old enough. This is called consent.



The doctor will ask you and your parent or carer about your health. If you want to, you can speak to the doctor on your own.



The doctor will listen to your heart, feel your tummy and look in your ears and mouth. The doctor and nurse will check your skin all over.

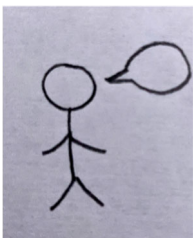


You will also be weighed and your height measured.



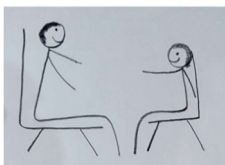
If you have any marks on your body the doctor will make a drawing and they may also take photographs.

What happens next?



The doctor will explain to you and your parent or carer what they think at the end of the examination.

If more tests are needed the doctor will explain them to you.



The social worker and doctor will talk to you and your parent or carer to find out what everyone thinks. They will explain what will happen next.

More information for parents: What happens when your child needs a child protection medical?

Why is this medical needed?

A child protection medical is needed because there are concerns that your child could have an injury. If you have other children they will sometimes be seen as well. This may be together or separately.

Children's doctors and nurses work closely with social workers and police, to help protect children from possible harm. Together, they assess your child to see if there could be medical or accidental causes for any marks seen on your child, or if they could have had any injuries inflicted on them.

Remember...

We understand that it is upsetting to have concerns raised about your child's safety and wellbeing and we know that child protection investigations can make people anxious. It is important that:

- You understand what is happening.
- Your and your child's views are listened to.
- You and your child are given any help or support you need.

Let us know how best to communicate with you and your child, including if an interpreter is needed.

Make sure you ask any questions you have, as we are here to help.

What do I need to bring?

The medical assessment can take more than two hours. If you can, please bring:

- Any medication your child is taking.
- Any communication aids you or your child use (including hearing aids)
- Devices (phones/cameras) containing photographs of any marks on your child.
- Items you would usually take with you when out with your child e.g. spare nappies
- A snack or a drink for you and your child if needed
- Your child's favourite toys or books.
- Any paper or electronic health records you have (e.g. your child's red/blue book)
- A list of any questions or concerns you may have.

Who will be at the medical assessment?

The assessment will take place on the children's ward or in a clinic at your local hospital. A children's doctor (paediatrician) and children's nurse will carry out the examination. There may be other adults there when you arrive, such as social workers or police officers. When it comes to the examination the doctor will agree with you and your child who else will be there, aiming for maximum comfort for your child.

Who needs to give consent for the medical?

The doctor will explain the reason for the medical assessment. They will take written consent from someone who has parental responsibility and/or from your child, depending on your child's age and level of understanding. The doctor will explain how information from the assessment will be shared. Reports are kept as part of a child's health record. They are also sent to those who need them. This can include health professionals, social workers, and sometimes the police or courts.

If your consent is not given and the doctors, social workers or police feel an examination would be in your child's best interests, they may need to discuss this further with you.

What will happen at the medical?

The doctor will ask you about your child's health. They may also ask to speak to your child on their own.

The doctor will assess your child to see if there are any medical conditions that could cause your child's problems, or if the problem could have been caused by injury or harm. Your child will have a full medical examination, including a top-to-toe skin examination. Most children cope with this well.

If your child has any obvious injuries or marks on the skin these will be noted and drawn in the health records. They may also be photographed.

What happens next?

The doctor will tell you what they think at the end of the examination and answer any questions you and your child may have. They will explain whether any further investigations or treatment are needed. The doctor and social worker will talk to you and your child about what will happen next.

The doctor is expected to review and consider the opinions of other doctors in a process called Peer Review. Peer Review is a confidential discussion with other specialist paediatricians. Your child's examination findings may be discussed at Peer Review. You and your social worker will be informed of any changes to the original opinion or plan after a Peer Review discussion

Numbers for services that bring together social workers, police and health staff for children living in:

Hampshire (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub): 0300 555 1384, out of hours: 0300 555 1373

Portsmouth (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub): 0845 671 0271, out of hours: 0300 555 1373

Southampton (Children's Resource Service): 02380 833 004, out of hours: 02380 23344

Isle of Wight (Children's Reception Team): 0300 300 0117, out of hours: 0300 555 1373

Dorset (Children's Advice and Duty Service): 01305 228 886, out of hours: 01202 228 558

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (First Response Hub): 01202 123 334 out of hours: 1202 738 256

Contacts for: Childline 0800 11 11 www.childline.org.uk and NSPCC 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk

Complaints: please ask any member of staff for a 'PALS' leaflet.