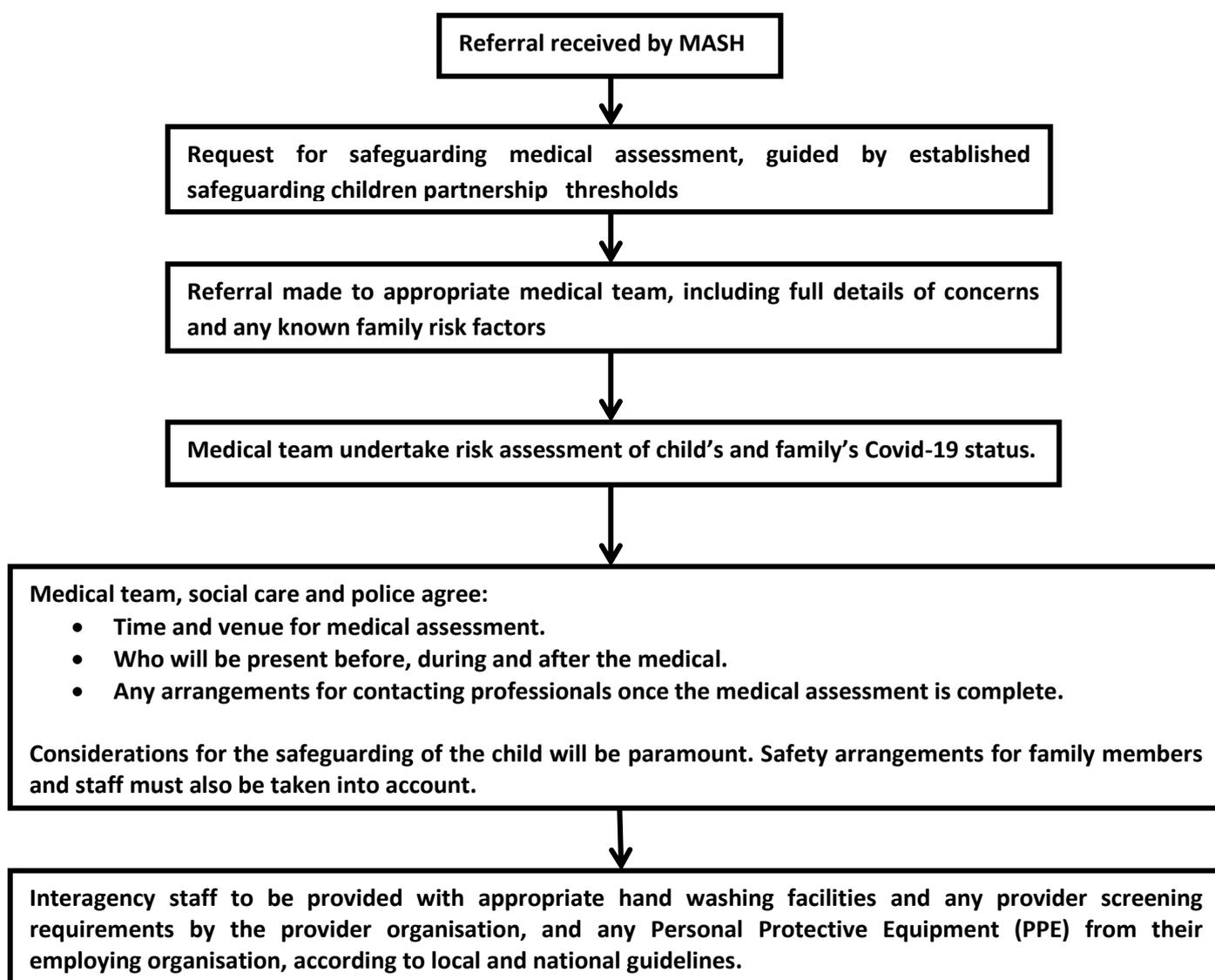


Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Designated Doctors' advice to interagency partners re safeguarding children medical assessments and arrangements during the Covid-19 pandemic: 29th April 2020

National recommendations state that safeguarding medical assessments should be prioritised by health services during the Covid-19 pandemic¹. Safeguarding medical assessments and procedures should continue to be carried out in the best interests of the child, keeping as closely as possible to usual procedures, whilst taking appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

There are clear benefits to having social care and sometimes police presence at safeguarding medical assessments. Within the HIPS region there are different local arrangements for safeguarding medical assessments with some settings able to facilitate social distancing measures more readily than others. Also, children and families will have different risk levels for transmitting and being at risk of serious illness if they should contract Covid-19. Therefore, risk assessments need to be made by the interagency team, on a case-by-case basis, as to who should attend the medical assessment.



¹ COVID-19 Prioritisation within Community Health Services. Winn M., Hayter A. NHS England & NHS Improvement. Letter to all health providers and commissioners in England 19th March 2020.