

Where can I get further information?

If you need further information please speak to your doctor or social worker. Alternatively the following websites or support groups may be helpful:

Working together to Safeguard Children can be found on www.gov.uk

NSPCC 24hr helpline **0800 800 5000**

Safeguarding Children Medical

Investigations

Blood Tests

These help us to look for any important medical causes which may lead to easy bleeding or bruising and to look at your child's bone health. Depending on the age of your child, skin numbing cream or spray will be used to minimise any discomfort or distress.

Eye examination

If your child is under 2 years old they may need to have the back of their eyes examined by a specialist eye doctor (ophthalmologist) using specialist equipment. Your child may need eye drops to help the doctor see any problems more clearly.

Radiology (X-rays / scans)

The tests described below use some form of radiation (x-rays) in order to take pictures of the body. High doses or prolonged exposure to radiation can be harmful however the risk of radiation from these scans is very small and they are essential to look for any important brain or bone problems which may need treatment to ensure the health of your child.

CT head

If your child is under 1 year or if there is concern about a head injury, your child will need a scan of their head. This scan is painless and usually takes about 5 minutes to perform.

Skeletal Survey

If your child is under 2 years or if they have any physical injuries they may need a skeletal survey. This is a series of x-rays of all the bones of the body looking for signs of bone disease or breaks. It is a painless procedure that takes a minimum of 30 minutes to complete. The x rays will need to be repeated again after 10-14 days to look for any changes.

If your child needs any other tests these will be explained to you by the doctor. If you have any questions about the tests described above please speak to your child's doctor.

Safeguarding Children Medical



Information For Parents

You have been given this leaflet because your child has been referred for a Safeguarding Medical Examination. This is also sometimes called a child protection medical examination. This leaflet explains what this involves.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the way in which parents or carers and professionals work together to ensure the health, safety and well being of children and to protect them from harm.

What is a safeguarding medical examination and why does my child need one?

Your child has been referred for this medical assessment because a professional such as a health visitor, midwife, doctor, teacher, social worker or police officer has noticed something about your child that needs further assessment. This may be an injury, a mark on the skin, some bruising or something your child has said.

A safeguarding medical aims to identify any important medical conditions which may affect your child's health and identify those children who may have suffered a deliberate injury or bruising. A safeguarding medical is not an accusation that you have done anything wrong but a way of looking for causes for any injuries or bruises.

You will be asked to give your consent for this medical examination to happen and it is important for you to be aware that information gained from this assessment will be shared with other professionals including social services and the police; this is standard procedure in all safeguarding medical assessments.

What happens during a Safeguarding Medical?

Your child will be assessed by a specialist children's doctor (paediatrician) who will talk to you about your child, examine them and decide if they need any further tests.

During the medical assessment the doctor will ask questions in order to try to learn as much as possible about your child's general health, the circumstances surrounding the referral and your child's family and social life. They will try to build a picture of your child's day to day life including who they live with, who helps to look after them and if they go to school. As part of this process, we may need to speak to other people who care for your child.

Examination

Your child will have a full medical examination looking for any medical problems and / or to identify any injuries that he/she may have. If any injuries are identified, the doctor will need to measure them.

Medical photography

If your child has visible marks, you will be asked for permission to take medical photographs which will form part of the assessment records. These photographs are taken by specially trained medical photographers.

What tests will my child have?

Depending on your child's age and the reason for referral, they may need some investigations to look for any problems that cannot be seen on examination. This may require admission to stay in hospital.

If any of these tests are needed you will be provided with information from the team caring for your child.

What happens next?

The doctor who carried out your child's medical examination will write a report of their assessment. It may be necessary to hold a meeting of professionals called a 'strategy meeting'. Many professionals involved in the care of your child will be invited to attend this meeting where information gathered about your child will be used by all the professionals to inform a joint decision as to whether any further action is needed to ensure the wellbeing of your child.

What are the possible outcomes?

This will depend on the outcome of the assessment but will usually be one of the following outcomes;

- If no concerns about your child's health, safety and wellbeing are identified no further action will be required
- If your child is found to have a medical condition which requires treatment this will be explained to you
- You and your child may be identified as needing extra help and support, this is also known as a Child in Need Plan and will be discussed with you by a social worker
- Your child maybe identified as needing extra protection or support, this may be living with you with the support of a family member or your child may live with foster carers. This will be discussed in greater detail by your social worker.