

# Child Protection Medical Examination

Children's Services

## Introduction

This leaflet explains the Child Protection Medical Examination process followed at the Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT). The process ensures that children in our care are kept safe where there are concerns about harm, neglect or abuse.

Concerns about your child's safety or welfare have been raised. Our job is to help work out if there is a reason for those concerns and if we can understand or resolve that worry, by asking you and other agencies for help.

As this is a legal process, it is very important that you understand what we are doing and why. So please ask questions as we are here to help.

Our Children and Midwifery Safeguarding Team and our staff at the hospital and community are guided by the following key principles:

- Children have a right to be safe and should be protected from all forms of abuse and neglect
- Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility
- It is better to help children and their families as early as possible, before issues escalate and become more damaging
- Children and families are best supported and protected when everybody works together.

## What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.



## Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse
- Preventing harm to children's health or development
- Ensuring children grow up safely and well cared for.

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## What is our responsibility in safeguarding children?

The Children's Acts of 1989 and 2004 make it a legal duty for all RWT staff to protect all children under 18 from the risk of significant harm. Our legal duties include safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people to make sure they grow up happy and healthy.

If there is a concern about the safety or welfare of your child we will follow child protection policies and procedures as set by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together.



## Consent

You will be asked to confirm you have 'parental responsibility' and then provide consent for us to undertake any assessments that are needed. We will also make sure you understand what is happening with each process and why. We may also ask your child for their consent if we feel they fully understand what is involved.



There are occasions when your consent is not legally needed. The law requires us to share certain information with children's social care or the police if it is in the child's best interest.



## Working in partnership to safeguard your child

We understand that it is upsetting to have concerns raised about a child's safety and well-being. We always try to work in partnership with parents and carers to offer support. Please cooperate with us and the other agencies involved in the best interests of your child.

## Child Protection Medical Examination

We need to complete a child protection medical examination to check for any signs of harm that may have happened to your child. A chaperone will always be present when the specialist children's doctor (paediatrician) who has been trained for this work undertakes these tests to ensure your child's safety.



Children's social care are always informed if we do a child protection medical examination as they have a legal duty to investigate our child protection concerns.

If you have any other children it may be necessary that they are examined.

The allocated social worker involved will talk to you about the child protection process and any decisions they have to make about your child's safety, including when your child can safely leave the hospital.

Sometimes we have to discuss our medical concerns with the Police, but we will usually tell you if we are going to do this. The next sections will explain some of the tests and investigations we may need to complete with your child as part of this process.

During routine hours, child protection medical examinations take place in Children's Outpatients Department at New Cross Hospital.

## What will happen and what questions will you be asked?

The doctor will want to know about the overall health of your child and may ask you about:

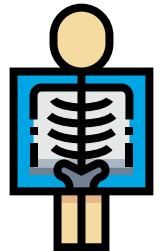
- Their birth
- Their development
- Any illnesses your child may have had
- Any medication they may be taking
- Their day-to-day health
- Immunisations
- Behaviour and progress at school
- Family history.

You will also be given an opportunity to talk about any health concerns you may have for yourself.

As well as a general top to toe examination of your child by the paediatrician, the following examinations may also need to be carried out:

## Radiology information

As part of the Child Protection Medical Examination different types of X-rays may be needed. The radiographers will explain the examination that your child needs and there will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions. Radiographers are all specifically trained to undertake these procedures. Written or valid consent is required for radiology investigation of the child for any child protection exam.



X-rays are a type of radiation. Everybody is exposed to small amounts of natural background radiation from the soil, food and air we breathe.

Radiographers take the X-rays for the Child Protection Medical Examination which may include a skeletal survey and Computed Tomography (CT) head scan. The amount of radiation used in a skeletal survey is the same as a few months background radiation. For a CT head, the amount of radiation used is more than an ordinary X-ray of the chest or body and is equal to the natural radiation we receive from the atmosphere over a period of approximately three years. The radiographers make sure the smallest amount of X-rays are used in a skeletal survey. The risk from this radiation dose is low, and the benefits of your child having the scan outweigh these risks. Any concerns regarding radiation risk can be highlighted to the doctor looking after your child.

Radiologists (doctors specialising in X-rays) will review the skeletal survey and/or CT Head. The report will be sent to the doctor who is looking after your child. The results of the skeletal survey and/or CT Head will not be provided when you attend the department.

## Skeletal survey

A skeletal survey is a set of X-rays, taken to look for any fractures or broken bones. Babies can have broken bones without any signs on examination, which is why this test is done.

The skeletal survey involves taking approximately 35 X-rays of your child's whole body. It may take an hour to complete the skeletal survey which is performed in the X-ray department. You will be present and will be asked to hold your child still for the X-rays to make sure the images are clear. You will be asked to wear a protective apron to protect yourself from the X-rays.

**If there is any chance you are pregnant you must tell the radiographer.**

The skeletal survey is not painful but it can be distressing for a child to be kept still for this long. If your child has a favourite toy or comforter, please bring this with you. There is always a nurse, a Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust member of staff, or a social worker available to look after your child if you do not wish to hold your child. Some children are given medication to help them relax.

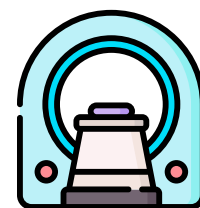
Many fractures are invisible in the first few days after they happen, only becoming visible when they start to heal. This may take 11 days or more for them to be seen. This is why more X-rays are taken around 11 – 14 days later in a further examination. This second skeletal survey will be similar to the first one; however the number of X-rays taken will usually be less.

**The skeletal survey examination is not considered complete unless this second part is done.**

## Computed Tomography Head scan (CT Head)

A CT head scan uses X-rays to create detailed images of the skull and brain. Lots of pictures are taken and analysed by a computer. CT scans check for any signs of a brain injury or damage.

The CT head scan usually takes less than 10 minutes. It is very important that your child remains still for the scan. It may be necessary for your child to be given some medication to help them relax. You will be able to discuss this with the doctor looking after your child.



## Medical photography

If it is felt photographs are required this may be completed by our specialist medical photography team.



## Tests

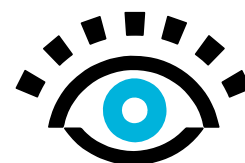
Blood, urine (wee) tests or swabs may be needed to look for any other medical cause for the concerns we might have. Sometimes there is a delay in the results coming back because we send them to a special laboratory in another hospital to be looked at.

## Examination of the eyes

With babies and small children, it is very difficult to be certain whether or not there is a head injury because they cannot tell us if they have a headache. An eye doctor (ophthalmologist) will examine the back of the eye (retina) which is directly connected to the brain.

Drops will be put into the eye to make the pupils big so that the doctor can see the back of the eye and these take 30 – 60 minutes to work. A small instrument may be needed to help keep your child's eyelids open for the examination.

The examination consists of light being shined into the inside of the eye to look for bleeding in the back of the eyes; this gives us a clue to any bleeding or injury to the brain. This is completely safe and the examination by the eye doctor only takes about five minutes.



## Intimate or sexual abuse examination

A doctor may need to look at your child's genital area as part of the general child protection medical examination. If it is suspected or been disclosed that your child may have been sexually abused, they will be referred to a team of specially trained doctors and nurses at Mountain Health Care which is the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for children and young people across the West Midlands. Information will be given to you about SARC if this is thought to be needed.

## What are the rights of my child?

- To be safe and protected from harm, abuse or neglect
- To be heard and have their views and feelings considered
- To be entitled to appropriate confidentiality
- To be protected and supported
- To be kept informed and updated according to their age and understanding
- To ask for explanations and to raise concerns
- To consent or refuse medical examinations as long as they fully understand what is involved
- To have an interpreter if needed
- To have a chaperone.

## What are my rights?

- To be heard
- To be supported
- To be kept informed and involved
- To ask for explanations and appropriate confidentiality
- To seek legal advice and complain
- To have an interpreter if needed
- To request a chaperone.

## How will information about my child be shared?

In order to get a full picture of a child's health history it is usual practice that information is gathered from your child's GP, Health Visitor, School Nurse, any hospitals involved in your child's care or other agencies that may be able to help. We will ask your permission to do this.

Your information is shared in line with the data protection legislation (General Data Protection Act 2018).



## Please remember

- There is no such thing as a silly question - we will always listen, so just ask
- If you do not understand what we are doing or why, keep asking us to explain until you do understand
- Feeling upset is only natural, but please remember our staff are just doing their job.



## Who do I speak to if I need further information?

Please speak to the nurse looking after your child who will contact the consultant paediatrician in charge of your child's care. You can also speak to the doctor doing the child protection assessment.

If you need more information about the child protection process, please contact the social worker appointed to your child's care if applicable.

If you are unhappy with the healthcare your child has received, please contact:

**Patient Experience Team**

01902 307999 Ext.: 85382

rwh-tr.PALS@nhs.net

**Wolverhampton Children's Social Care**

01902 555392

**Children and Young People's Sexual Assault Referral Service**

0808 196 2340 or visit: <https://www.westmidscyps.co.uk>

**NSPCC**

Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000

**Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)**

To find your nearest CAB visit: [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

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## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਅਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਆਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。