

Multi-Agency Referral Pathway for Child Protection Medicals for children 0-18 years living in Bedford or Central Bedfordshire (Except South)

Referral for child protection medical (suspected physical abuse and/or neglect)
 (The decision for a CP medical should always be made in consultation with the consultant or senior paediatrician on call, preferably by participation in the multi-agency strategy discussion wherever possible.)

**REFERRALS TO BGH
 (Acute Paediatrics)**
 On call Consultant from 09.00-21.00 bleep 542
 On call registrar from 21.00-09.00 bleep 208:
 via switchboard 01234 355122

**REFERRALS TO Child Development Centre, Hill
 Rise, Kempston (CDC)
 (Community Paediatrics)**
 On-call doctor: 01234 315818 (advice available
 9am – 5pm, normal working days only).

- Infants < 24 months with suspected/known physical abuse.
- All children requiring **urgent medical treatment or admission** (e.g. significant injury, severe neglect, traumatic head injury).
- Out of hours referrals (normal weekdays after 17.00. Bank holidays and weekends 24h)

Children > 2 years (unless urgent hospital care required).

Paediatrician will arrange for the examination in the Paediatric Assessment Unit or ward, as appropriate.

Completed CP medical referral form to be sent to beds.cpmeds@nhs.net plus phone call to ensure referral received and to ask for call back from the on call consultant to discuss the case and set an appointment time.

- **Caveat:** Examinations to be held in the Hospital will be expedited, depending on current clinical needs(s) in the department, at the time. Still not sure this paragraph is needed if the one below stays.
- All referring Agencies need to appreciate that the overriding duty of the Hospital Clinician is to attend to the medical needs of sick children. Therefore it may be possible that the Child Protection medical may be delayed.

Appointment booked if appropriate. **Appointment times for a CP medical are 2pm and 3.30pm.**
 The medical may be arranged for the following day if non-urgent, depending on availability of appointments and the child is in a place of safety. *If the child cannot be brought by 3.30pm and the medical is required urgently, the paediatrician will refer to the on-call paediatrician at BGH.*

If concern is regarding **sexual abuse** a referral to **BEDFORD SARC** (Emerald Centre) is required. Call 01234 897052 to discuss referral. (If hospital admission is required for urgent medical care, discuss with on call paediatrician at BGH.)