

Revised amendments to support emergency planning Covid 19 (11th May 2020)

Pan Bedfordshire Child Protection Medical Assessments for physical abuse and neglect

Neglect or emotional maltreatment has lasting consequences for children's and young people's physical and mental health, therefore the advice of a paediatrician is required as early as possible for all children referred to Children's Social Care, particularly if they meet the threshold for strategy discussion.

- Following a referral to Children's Social Care resulting in the need for a section 47 enquiry for suspected physical abuse and/or neglect; the decision for a Child Protection Medical Assessment (CPMA) should always be made in consultation with the paediatrician on call. This should be through participation in multiagency discussion.
- It must be understood that the hospital must not be considered as a place of safety for safeguarding.

Social worker will;

- Consult with on call paediatrician, if this has not already taken place as part of the strategy meeting.
- The Consultant may be in clinic if the social worker calls in the morning; in this case he or she will call back once available.
- If strategy Discussion cannot be delayed until the doctor is available; it is still expected that decision to do CP medical will wait the input of the doctor. SW will feedback to the doctor for his advice.
- Complete the referral form and attach the Strategy Meeting minutes and forward to the appropriate service. (see below for appropriate pathway to be followed and contact as per appendix 3)
- Consent **must** be obtained from a person with parental responsibility / young person over 16.
- As a rule, parents/ carers are required to attend with the Social Worker unless it was agreed inappropriate during the strategy discussion.

Referral to Hospital Paediatrics

- Physical abuse of children <2 years of age
- ALL Out of Hours referrals (normal weekdays after 17:00; weekends and public/bank holidays).

Contact details see appendix 2

Referral to Community Paediatric Services

- Physical abuse > 2 years of age
- Children of all ages where there are concerns of neglect (unless hospital treatment is required)

Contact details see appendix 2

Paediatrician will arrange for CPMA in the Paediatric Assessment Unit or ward, as appropriate. **Caveat:** CPMA will be expedited depending on current clinical need(s) in the department, at the time. Priority must be given to the needs of sick children. Therefore CPMA may be delayed. **Children MUST NOT be taken to the Emergency Unit for a CP medical**

Appointment times for a CP medical are pre booked for 14:00 hrs or 15.30 hrs
The medical may be arranged for a later date in non-urgent cases.
Children MUST NOT be presented without prior arrangement

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Once the CPMA is undertaken, a written report will usually be provided to Children's Social Care and the Child's GP, **within 7 working days.**
The Social Worker must provide feedback to the Paediatrician who undertook the CPMA regarding the conclusion of section 47 inquiry.

South Bedfordshire

Edwin Lobo Centre, Redgrave Gardens, Luton, Beds, LU3 3QN

Tel: 01582 345945

E-mail: ccs-tr.elccpmedicals@nhs.net

North Bedfordshire

Child Development Centre, Hill Rise, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7EB

Tel: 01234 310278

E-mail: ccs.beds.childrens.cdc.admin@nhs.net

Referral to Hospital Paediatrics

Physical abuse of children <1 years of age

ALL Out of Hours referrals (normal weekdays after 17:00 ; weekends and public/bank holidays.

South Bedfordshire

Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds, LU4 ODZ

Tel: 01582 497023 / 718298

E-mail : ldh-tr.luton.cpdmeds@nhs.net

North Bedfordshire

Bedford Hospital, Kempston Road, Bedford, MK42 9DJ

Tel: 01234 355122 *and ask for the on-call Consultant Paediatrician who will provide a secure email address as this will be dependence upon who is on duty.*

Important notice:

Children should not be taken to the hospital Emergency Unit or Community Paediatric setting without prior arrangements. If they require requires immediate medical attention they should be taken to Hospital.

Prior consultation with Paediatrician is a must; Paediatrician will determine appropriateness of CPM based on clinical need

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Attendance at CP medical examination will be restricted to child to be assessed, one parent /carer and one social worker

If child or family member displaying Covid 19 symptoms; high temperature or/and new persistent cough, or **increase in frequency of an old cough this must be disclosed to the Paediatrician prior to at least during the strategy discussion.**