

Arranging a child protection medical - who sees what, where?

Authors: Frankie Howsam (Named Doctor for Safeguarding) in consultation with East / West Designated Doctors

Publication date: August 2023

Review date: August 2025

This guidance is for social workers / police trying to obtain a medical opinion. It is divided into sections for NAI, sexual abuse and neglect.

In Sussex, child protection medical assessment varies according to **i) locality** in which the child lives and **ii) type of abuse** for which an assessment is being sought.

<http://primarycareknowledge.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/sussex-ccg-map-final-march-20121.jpg>

You can check which area the child lives in using the postcode checker on <http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/LocationSearch.do>

If a CP medical is needed please discuss with the appropriate clinician as soon as possible so that plans can be made to arrange for assessment of the child/siblings whilst also ensuring cover for other conflicting clinical commitments.

Concerns about physical Abuse/NAI

Brighton and Hove

Mid-Sussex & Horsham, East Grinstead

East Sussex (Peacehaven, Newhaven, Lewes and Seaford)

- **9am – 5pm Mon-Fri:** Contact Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital on 01273 696955

Ask for bleep 8686 (HDU Consultant) to arrange time slot for appointment. Dr to book the appointment (via safeguarding office). If there is a problem contacting the bleep holder please call ext: 62363 Children's Safeguarding Team for support.

CP medicals are best performed when the child arrives at RACH prior to 4.30pm and will be seen within 24 hours of referral. They occur on level 7, Children's Daycare unit. The child will need to check in at reception on Level 5 Children's Outpatients.

Children are better served by being seen during daytime hours when assessment can occur by a member of the dedicated child protection rota, in an allocated clinic room in outpatients (rather than a busy A+E department), with access to phlebotomy and clinical photography.

- **Out of Hours (5pm – 9am), weekends and bank holidays:** each case should be discussed individually with the Paediatric Consultant of the Week (CoW) on bleep 8636. OOH CP medicals are booked in via Children's A+E. The receptionist and nurse in charge should be informed in advance.

The following children are of higher risk and may be seen out of hours.

- Children under 2 years of age*
- Children on a child protection plan*
- When child has symptoms needing medical attention that day or an injury where there is concern regarding immediate placement of the child.

If there is concern that an injury may fade before the CP medical (such as over the weekend), Brighton and Hove CPT have agreed to take photos with their police photographer.

CPT will endeavour to attend for those with *.

Children arriving out of hours (referred to RACH by social care) are seen by the CoW who may ask the ward registrar to initially assess at their discretion. It is the CoW's responsibility to have seen the injuries and "signed off" the patient's discharge and subsequent CP report.

Crawley

Includes Billingshurst, Broadbridge Heath, Copsale, Cowfold, Partridge Green, Nuthurst, Rudgwick, Roffey, Rusper, Slinfold, Southwater, West Grinstead)

NB. Crawley clinicians do NOT see East Grinstead patients

- **9am- 5pm Mondays to Fridays** : Crawley CDC, 1st Floor, Green Wing, Crawley Hospital
All child protection medicals and enquiries
Telephone 01293 301010
Your message will be passed on immediately and you will be called back within the hour
NB. For under 6 months of age, calls should go to acute services below, as Crawley CDC are not seeing this age group. If the child is known to them, they will take the details and inform the relevant consultant.
- **5pm-9am, Monday to Friday, weekends and bank holidays:**
East Surrey Hospital, Redhill. Telephone switchboard on 01737 768511
Ask to speak to the Consultant paediatrician on call (NOT the paediatrician on call as that will be the registrar or SHO)

East Sussex

Eastbourne, Polegate, Hailsham, High Weald (including Crowborough and Uckfield)

- **9am – 5pm** and weekends 10-6.30pm

Contact Eastbourne Hospital, Short Stay Paediatric Unit (01323417400 ext: 734965 and ask for Consultant Paediatrician on-call to request paediatric physical abuse assessment).

Children presenting acutely with Safeguarding concerns at EDGH will be transferred to Conquest for further assessment/admission is required

- **After 5pm** contact Paediatric consultant on call at Conquest Hospital via switchboard on 01424 755255

Hastings/Rother

- Contact Paediatric consultant on call at Conquest Hospital on 01424 755255.

West Sussex

Chichester and Bognor Area

- **9am – 5pm Mon – Fri**

There is currently no formal provision for child protection medicals in this area. All enquiries should be directed to the consultant paediatrician at St Richards Hospital, Chichester via switchboard 01243 788122.

- **5pm- 9am Mon – Fri, weekends and bank holidays**

All child protection medical examinations and enquiries go to St Richards Hospital, Chichester Switchboard 01243 788122. Ask to speak to the Consultant paediatrician on call.

Worthing

- **9am - 5pm Mon – Fri**

All child protection medicals examinations and enquiries telephone the Worthing CDC Coordinator (Worthing Hospital) on 01903 286707 or 01903 286719.

- **5pm – 9am Mon – Fri, weekends and bank holidays:**

Worthing Hospital 01903 205111

Ask to speak to the **Consultant paediatrician on call**.

Concerns about Sexual Abuse

- Under 14 years – Sussex Children's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (CSARC) sees children from all areas of Sussex at Pebble House based at Brighton General Hospital, taking referrals from Police and Social Care. Once the child has been referred to social care / police a telephone strategy meeting is held to decide on need for a health assessment and timing.

CSARC is open 9am-5pm Weekdays, Weekends and Bank Holidays and a Paediatrician is available for advice from Mon-Sun 10am - 4pm. Telephone CSARC on 01273 242288 (call will be diverted over weekend to relevant weekend Doctor on call in the DAYTIME).

There is no evening/overnight forensic examination provision from CSARC - but this will not hamper the case (see separate CSA guidance)

- For children over 14 years – refer to the Crawley Saturn Centre (SARC) on 01293 600469 for forensic examinations and / or signposting to sexual health services.

Concerns about neglect / welfare – is a medical needed?

Brighton & Hove

- Most cases are non-acute and should be discussed with Seaside View paediatric team.
- Out of hours, children at risk of imminent harm from neglect should be discussed with RACH on call ward consultant (CoW) via switchboard.

Mid-Sussex

- Neglect medicals are seen at Nightingale CDC Haywards Heath (Dr Male/Dr Gupta)
Tel: 01444 414100 (Please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. This may not be the same day but should not affect the service as these cases do not need to be seen within a 24 hour window.)

East Sussex

- Neglect / welfare referrals to be made to community paediatrician for the area that child lives.
Melanie Leibenburg - Hastings and Rother
Tracey Ward - Eastbourne / Peacehaven / Newhaven