

Useful contacts:

The NSPCC has helplines that children and adults can ring for advice and support.

- Children and young people can call ChildLine on 0800 111
- Adults can call 0808 800 5000

Parentline (0808 800 2222), which parents can call for free from landlines and most mobiles for information, advice, guidance and support on any aspect of parenting and family life. familylives.org.uk

The Coram Children's Legal Centre 08088 020 008 gives free legal advice on child Law, family law and education law.

The Family Rights Group (FRG) provides free confidential advice and support to families whose children are involved with local authority children's services.

- Families can call its advice service free on 0808 801 0366 or send an email to advice@frg.org.uk FRG also has a range of free advice sheets on its website. www.frg.org.uk

Family Lives is a national charity providing help and support on all aspects of family life. It has a confidential service called

Home-Start UK is a nationwide charity supporting children and families through a network of volunteers. home-start.org.uk

Confidentiality

Children, young people and their families have a right to receive confidential medical care and advice. Staff normally need consent to share information with anyone outside the health care team. However sometimes staff have to share information with others in situations where they feel they need to protect children & young people from harm or neglect.

What should I do if I have further enquiries?

For enquiries or concerns regarding the treatment you or your child have received within our hospitals, you can contact our

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS):

- Tel: 01273 696955 extn. 4029 or 4588

If you do not understand this leaflet, we can arrange for an interpreter.

إذا كنت لا تستطيع فهم محتويات هذه النشرة فيمكننا عمل الترتيبات لتوفير مترجم شفوي لك.

এই প্রচারপুস্তিকাটি যদি আপনি বুঝতে না পারেন, তবে আপনার জন্য আমরা একজন অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করে দিতে পারি।

如你唔明白本單張的內容，我們可安排口譯員服務。

如你唔明白本傳單的內容，我們可安排口譯員服務。

اگر مندرجات این جزوه را نمیفهمید، ما می‌توانیم مترجم در اختیارتان بگذاریم.

Jeśli masz trudności w zrozumieniu tej ulotki, możemy zorganizować tłumacza.

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Disclaimer

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

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Brighton and Sussex 
University Hospitals

Child protection: Why a medical examination has been requested and what happens next?

Information for parents & carers

Further support

We understand that this may be a distressing and difficult experience for you and your family but please be assured that the investigations are initiated with your child's best interests in mind.

We will :-

- treat you with respect, listen to you,
- give you clear explanations & offer advice & support.
- Organise a translator if you need one

Why is this examination necessary?

A medical examination has been requested as there have been concerns raised about your child.

The investigation will involve either a social worker or a police officer.

Your child will be examined by an experienced senior children's doctor (paediatrician).

Other children in the family may need to be physically examined too.

Consent

You or your child's permission - known as consent - needs to be given before the examination can take place. Your child can only consent if they are old enough and/or can understand what they are consenting to.

What if you do not give consent?

The doctor, social worker or police officer will consider the reasons why consent has been refused and think about the possible harm that could be caused to your child. It is likely they will seek legal advice as the child's welfare must come first.

They may seek a court order giving them permission to interview or medically examine your child without your consent.

What happens next?

The doctor will come and speak to you and ask about:-

- Any illness your child has had
- Their birth
- Their development
- Their immunizations (jabs)
- Any allergies
- Any regular medication
- Their behaviour and progress at school
- Their day to day health
- The family history.
- How the incident happened and about the injuries.

The doctor may speak to the social worker or police officer involved.

You will have an opportunity to talk about any health concerns you may have and to ask questions about the process.

There will normally only be you, your child and the doctor present.

Sometimes a social worker will attend and if anyone else needs to be involved it will be discussed with you.

What happens during the examination?

Your child will be given a full general examination (top to toe).

Any obvious injuries will be noted, measured and drawn in the child's record.

Photographs may also be taken of any injuries or wounds.

If your child becomes upset, a further discussion can take place to decide what is best to do next.

More specific tests such as bloods, an eye examination or x rays may need to be done. These will be discussed with you.

What happens after the examination?

The doctor will explain his/her findings to you and your child (depending on their age & understanding) as well as to the social worker and or police officer.

The doctor will write a report which is sent to the social worker/police involved and to your GP. It may be used in court.