



7-Minute Briefing: Multi-Agency Guidance on Medical Examinations and Health Assessments for Children

1. Why has this guidance been developed?

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount. This guidance has been developed to assist practitioners in determining the most appropriate action to take when medical examinations and health assessments are required for children and young people.

7. Emergency Situations

In all cases where staff from any agency have immediate or life threatening concerns about a child, then emergency services should be called on 999.

6. Contact Information

Social Work Single Access Point on 030 33 33 3001.

CMA for Neglect - contact on call Consultant Paediatrician via DGRI on 01387 246246.

NHS Public Protection Team on 01387 244300 for advice for health practitioners.

5. Types of Medical Examinations (continued)

Further information on this service can be found at:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/sarcs>

4. **Comprehensive Medical Assessment for Neglect (CMA)** this is recommended as part of a multi-agency assessment for all children where chronic neglect is a concern.
5. Other Health Assessments including **Assessments of Care Experienced Children and Young People, Mental Health Assessments of Children and Young People and Wellbeing Assessments.**

2. Why might these assessments be required?

All medical examinations/ assessments are holistic, comprehensive assessments of the child/ young person's health and developmental needs. There may be variations in who undertakes medical examinations, and the purpose of the examination must be clear prior to the examination (usually discussed at inter agency referral discussion (IRD) or at time of the referral with appropriate clinician).

3. Purposes of Medical examinations and health assessments

- To establish what immediate treatment is required.
- To provide specialist medical opinion.
- To support multi-agency planning and decision making.
- To establish if there are unmet health needs, and to secure any ongoing health care (including mental health), investigations and treatment.
- To listen to and reassure the child and family.

4. Types of Medical Examinations

1. **Joint Paediatric Forensic Examination (JPFE)** is an examination by a Paediatrician and a forensic medical examiner (FME). Police will liaise to arrange the examination.
2. **Single Doctor Examination** for suspected physical abuse is an initial examination carried out by a Paediatrician-this will inform decision making regarding JPFE.
3. **Examination following sexual assault.** Children below 13 years of age are seen at Wishaw General Hospital. Children aged 13-15 years are undertaken at Archway Glasgow and Police will liaise. Any young person aged 16-18 years can be seen locally by D&G Sexual Assault Response Co-ordination Service (SARCS).