

Child Maltreatment Medical Referral Tool

What is the criteria for referral for forensic medical exams?

Emergency Medical Exam

1. A child victim discloses or other credible information exists to believe that there was a sexual abuse contact event within 120 hours. (The exam will address any need for emergency contraception, address any exposure to sexually transmitted infection, and allow for the collection of any possible physical evidence.)
2. **There is concern for acute trauma** (post-traumatic bleeding, pain, dysuria, hematuria).
3. **Medical intervention is needed emergently** to assure the health and safety of the child, in cases of alleged sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect.
4. **Children appear to have serious or life-threatening injuries**, in cases of alleged sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect.

Non-Emergency Medical Exam

1. A child victim discloses or other credible information exists to believe that there was a sexual abuse contact event, but an emergency exam did not take place within 120 hours.
2. There was no disclosure of sexual abuse but **other reported circumstances cause concern**;
3. Physical abuse is alleged, and the child has already been seen by pediatrician, but **there is a forensic issue or other medical concern that was not addressed in initial exam**; or
4. There is no sign of injury but **concern of physical abuse**.
5. **There is a need to reassure and educate the child and family**.



What happens during the medical exam?

The medical exam will be like the physical exam a child gets with his/her primary care provider, including height, weight, blood pressure; listening to the heart and lungs; and looking in the ears, mouth, and eyes. Additionally, forensic medical evidence will be collected as described in the boxes below, dependent upon the age of the child and other factors.

Emergency Medical Exam

Alleged Sexual Abuse

Forensic medical evidence (photographs, DNA swabs) will be collected.

Alleged Physical Abuse

Photographs will be taken, and other evidence may be collected as warranted, for example, a skeletal survey.

Non-Emergency Medical Exam

Alleged Sexual Abuse

The medical provider will examine the external genitalia and take photographs.

Alleged Physical Abuse

Photographs will be taken, and other evidence may be collected as warranted, for example, a skeletal survey.

What is the referral procedure?

Referrals may come from the MDT detective or CPS Social Worker. In both emergency and non-emergency cases, the forensic team is available for consultations over the phone if the referring agency is uncertain if an exam is warranted.

Emergency Medical Exam

Call 434-924-0000 and ask for the forensic nurse on-call. Advise the nurse of your name, your agency, the child/family's situation, and your estimated time of arrival.

For emergency cases, the response time is one hour from the time of notification for the forensic nurse to arrive at the hospital

Non-Emergency Medical Exam

The Foothills staff will work with the investigators, Dr. Parrish, and the family to schedule the appointment as soon after the forensic interview as possible.

Please note: In non-emergency cases involving physical abuse, the child can also be referred to any medical facility specializing in pediatrics, including their own pediatrician, for a medical exam. Be aware that a pediatrician may not document the exam (take photos) and that a pediatrician who knows the family well may be biased.