



## Referral Guidelines for Medical Assessments of Alleged Child Abuse and Neglect

When an abuse report is received by the Department of Social Services or Law Enforcement, the following clinical scenarios will benefit from a face-to-face medical evaluation at a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) or a similar multidisciplinary abuse assessment (MDA) facility:

1. Non-acute sexual abuse where last incident occurred greater than 72 hours ago.
2. Sexual assault occurring within last 72 hours. For a child with acute and on-going bleeding from genitalia or anus, an initial evaluation is required at local hospital emergency department with follow-up at a CAC/MDA facility.
3. Sexually transmitted disease(s) [STD] in a child eleven (11) years of age and younger as diagnosed by a primary physician or local hospital emergency department (ED).
4. Bruises (any of the following apply):
  - When present in non-ambulatory child;
  - With a recognizable pattern;
  - Located on face, neck, trunk, buttocks;
  - When multiple in number located on different areas of the body with a history of single trauma incident.
5. Patterned or scald burns. For children with extensive burns, initial evaluation is required at local hospital ED with follow-up at a CAC/MDA facility
6. Fractures in children less than six (6) years of age where a concern or suspicion for abuse has been raised may require an initial evaluation at a local hospital ED due to the need for X-rays; with follow-up at a CAC/MDA facility.
7. Children exposed to methamphetamine or its production. If a child presents clinical signs of acute intoxication such as respiratory difficulty, agitation, tremors or seizures, an initial evaluation is required at local hospital ED with follow-up at a CAC/MDA facility.
8. Head injury in children  $\leq$  3 years of age. If child presents clinical signs of respiratory difficulty, seizures or decreased level of consciousness, initial evaluation is required at local hospital ED with follow-up at a CAC/MDA facility.
9. Children initially evaluated at a hospital ED for clinical scenarios described in numbers 1-8 and whose injuries are deemed suspicious for abuse and/or neglect should receive a follow-up assessment at a CAC/MDA facility.

**Note:** Requesting a medical evaluation is not exclusively limited to the above scenarios.