



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
9 RICHLAND MEDICAL PARK DRIVE, SUITE 260
COLUMBIA, SC 29203
(803) 434-3822
Fax (803) 434-3821

Guidelines for Forensic Medical Evaluations

Upon receipt of a report of abuse and neglect, a referral for a forensic medical evaluation must be made as soon as possible, but no later than 3 working days, to a child abuse pediatrician (CAP) or a physician, advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant (known as medical providers) that is qualified by the SC Children's Advocacy Medical Response System¹ (SCCAMRS) pursuant to section 63-11-430 when the presenting case includes²:

- a. Bruises anywhere in a child under 1 year of age that is not pulling to stand.
- b. Children under the age of 2 with presence of at least one of the following:
 - a. Head Injury
 - b. Any fracture
 - c. Any burn
 - d. Chest and/or Abdominal Visceral Injury
- c. Bruising located on face, ears, neck, chest, back, buttocks, genital area **or**, bruises elsewhere with a pattern or multiple in number.
- d. Any report alleging sexual abuse of a child.
- e. Any sexually transmitted disease in a child eleven years of age or younger.
- f. Any family in which one or more children has been pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital or other health care facility, or has been injured and later died, as a result of suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect, when any sibling or other child remains in the home.
- g. Child exposed to the manufacture of methamphetamine or other hazardous drugs (clandestine labs), **or**, lives in or is exposed to an environment where drugs, including pharmaceuticals, are used, possessed, and/or trafficked.

A face-to-face medical evaluation by a child abuse pediatrician or qualified SCCAMRS medical provider may not be necessary when:

1. The child was examined for the alleged abuse or neglect by a physician who is not a member of the SCCAMRS network or a child abuse pediatrician, and a consultation between the examining physician and a SCCAMRS qualified medical provider or child abuse pediatrician concludes that a further medical evaluation is unnecessary;

OR

2. The child protective caseworker, with supervisory approval, has determined, after conducting a child safety and risk assessment, that there is no indication of injury as described in paragraphs (a)-(g) as reported;

OR

3. The child abuse pediatrician or qualified SCCAMRS medical provider determines that a medical evaluation is not required.

¹ For a list of child abuse pediatricians and SCCAMRS qualified medical providers, please see program website www.sccamrs.org

² Requesting a medical evaluation is not exclusively limited to the above scenarios.