

The social worker will stay in the room, but behind a curtain for the examination. In certain circumstances a police doctor may be present to give an opinion and take special swabs for their investigation.

What if my child refuses?

Children can refuse an examination. They are never forced. Sometimes they need time to talk to someone about the examination. Another appointment can be made, but this could mean loss of evidence if this is an urgent assessment. It may mean that the original concern cannot be properly investigated and leave unanswered questions about your child's wellbeing and safety. It may also mean that your child may be at risk from untreated problems or infections. You should discuss this with the doctor and social worker.

Will it be upsetting?

Most children cope best when they are well supported by carers who are calm and encouraging. It is helpful if you can be positive in their encouragement of the examination. Your child needs your support.

What next?

The doctor will discuss their findings with you and the social worker and answer any questions. If you would prefer not to discuss sensitive issues in front of your child, a qualified member of staff will take care of your child. We recommend this for younger children. After the medical further discussion will take place between the social worker and the police and you will be informed about this. A follow up appointment may be made to discuss any results and you will be notified about this.



Child Protection Medical Examination

Your questions answered



Introduction

In Kirklees we are committed to working in partnership with children and their parents and carers. This leaflet has been produced to help you to understand the child protection medical assessment, part of a child protection investigation involving Kirklees Social Care, police and health working together to help you.

We know from studies and experience that most children find the medical assessment reassuring and helpful.

Why does my child need an examination?

Concern has been expressed about your child's well being. A Pediatrician (specialist child and young person doctor) has been asked to see you to make a full assessment of your child. If there are other children in your family they may also be asked to attend for an examination.

What happens?

A social worker or police officer will normally bring you and your child to the hospital. On arrival a receptionist will confirm your child's name and details.

What next?

The nurse will welcome you in a friendly and professional way and weigh and measure your child, as we do for all children. You will be asked to wait. There are toys in the waiting room for your child to play with.

What happens during the examination?

The doctor will ask questions about what has happened. They will also ask about your child's health and family background.

The doctor will then examine your child carefully, but sensitively, all over; head, mouth, chest, arms, legs. The doctor will make notes and draw pictures. All marks on your child are routinely recorded.

The doctor will then need to examine your child's private parts. This is an inspection of the outside of the body. It is not internal. The doctor will separate the outside folds of skin. It does not normally hurt (unless your child has an infection or injury which needs treating). Words will be used that you and your child will understand.



It is helpful if you let us know words that are used by the family to describe private parts of the body. This can save confusion and embarrassment. The examination will be done at your child's pace.

The doctor may take swabs and urine samples. This is a cotton wool swab similar to a cotton bud. The doctor will explain the need for this.

What is a colposcope?

We usually try to use a colposcope for the examination. This is a medical instrument with a strong light magnifier and DVD recorder. It allows the doctor to look more closely at your private parts without moving closer to you.

The doctor will explain this and ask for written consent. This does not go inside or touch your child. The pictures are seen on a screen at the side by the doctor.

Recording information

With your permission the doctor will take a DVD recording of the examination to keep as a record for evidence. It is normally only seen by other doctors for further opinions and can reduce the need for re examination. All recordings are kept securely. Any injuries may be photographed by a hospital photographer, the doctor, or a police civilian. You will be asked for written permission.

Who else will be in the examination room?

A nurse will assist and chaperone (i.e. be present as a witness) for this type of examination. We would prefer a carer such as a parent the child knows to be present.