

How to obtain a child protection (Section 47) medical assessment in Salford

(Child sexual abuse referrals are by police or social care to the SARC at St Mary's and not SRFT)

If the case is not open to CS and there are concerns about a possible injury to a child 0 – 18 years this will be processed by the Bridge team and referred to DAT

If the case is already open to an allocated Social Worker within Salford CS the concern re any suspicious injury will be shared directly with the allocated social worker

Social care determines whether to request a child protection medical assessment.

Decision that a child protection medical assessment is needed

No medical needed – to follow social care plan

'Normal working hours'

9am -5pm Monday to Friday

Always refer directly to the nearest A&E if medical treatment is or maybe needed.

'Out of Hours'

Telephone Paediatric admin on **0161 2060253** explaining that you are a social worker requesting a child protection medical assessment.

All child protection medicals in working hours Monday to Friday are carried out at the Children's Outpatients Department which is at Pendleton Gateway. Blood tests and photography is available on site there.

Occasionally a child protection medical is carried out at the Panda unit in working hours, for example if the child is there already for medical treatment.

Social worker to attend the medical assessment unless exceptional circumstances

Interim report – a hand written report will be provided at the time for the social worker and police officer in attendance.

Formal report – will be provided within 5 working days.

Photographs are part of the child's medical record. Copies can be requested these via Salford Royal Legal Department with consent of the paediatric consultant (legal.services@srft.nhs.uk).

Note 'srft.nhs' to 'salford.gov' is a secure link

Telephone Panda Unit on **0161 2060601** and ask to speak to the consultant on call, explaining that you are a social worker requesting an out of hours child protection medical assessment.

Discussion with on call Panda consultant to arrange the medical assessment if agreed.

If medical assessment to take place out of hours it will be at the Panda unit

Note - National paediatric guidance is that injuries suggestive of physical abuse should be seen for a child protection medical within **24 hours of initial referral** (suggest 12 hours for non-mobile infants)

Bruising in **non-mobile infants** is rare and raises concern about abuse. They can be the only outward sign of serious injuries such as fractures or subdural haematoma.

Consent is needed, from parent with PR or the Court.

Investigations may be needed such as a **skeletal survey**. These are done at Bolton or Manchester Childrens and are sometimes best done as an outpatient but cannot be done out of hours. Admission to hospital is not a place of safety in that the parent can remove them. You can have a bruise that is highly likely to be inflicted but still have a normal skeletal survey and the doctor will bring all available information together to form an opinion on the balance of probabilities