

Original Date of Issue: 5/80

Reviewed:	3/88	6/91	10/98	9/99	4/06		
Revised:	5/82	4/85	4/88	11/93	12/96	4/03	

Patient Population	
Neonate	√
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	
Geriatric	

POLICY: All cases of suspected child abuse or neglect must be managed according to established procedure.

PROCEDURE: The Emergency Department (ED) physician will:

Perform medical evaluation as necessary to:

- Address acute medical condition and
- Address possible history of abuse or neglect
- Address history and chronic medical conditions

Evaluation and Management

- a. Contact Social Worker
- b. Document:
 - All lesions with two sets of photographs.
 - Put date, patient’s name and unit number
 - The name of body part and
 - The name of the person who took photographs on each picture. (if possible, include the patient’s face in the photograph for reference.
- c. If medically warranted perform a skeletal.
- d. Obtain STD cultures on children in whom sexual abuse is suspected (see Code 11 Guidelines).
- e. The social worker will report suspected child abuse to proper authorities (including The Administration for Children’s Services and The Special Victims Squad as appropriate.
- f. Assure the protection of the child. If the child is felt, after consultation with the ED Attending and the Social Worker, to be in jeopardy if discharged from the hospital, the child can be held in the ED without parental consent. Call security (x46068) if conflict or elopement is anticipated. An ACS report must be made and accepted. ACS/ECS will then determine the disposition of the child and can place the child in emergency foster care when warranted.

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EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES		
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V. Evaluation and Management

- a. Contact Social Worker
- b. Document all lesions with two sets of photographs. Put date, patient's name and unit number, and the name of the body part and the name of the person who took photographs on each picture. If possible, include the patient's hand in the photograph for referral purpose.
- c. Do a skeletal survey on all children 6 years of age and younger, suspected of being abused.
- d. Obtain STD cultures on children in whom sexual abuse is suspected (see Code 11 Guidelines).
- e. The social worker will report suspected child abuse to Special Services for Children. Document on chart the report number.
- f. Assure protection of child. If child is felt after consultation with the ED Attending and the Social Worker, to be in jeopardy if discharged from the hospital, the child should be kept in the ED without parental consent. Call security (x46068) if conflict or elopement is anticipated. The child will either be placed in emergency foster care or hospitalized. Agency foster care is preferable when there are no medical grounds for admission.