

Child Advocacy

Children's Access Center

24/7 access for referring physicians

(866) 353-KIDS (5437)

Outpatient Referral

Referral forms online at: www.childrenscentralcal.org/services/medicaloffice/refer

FAX: (559) 353-8888

Child Advocacy Office Numbers

Main Number: (559) 353-6022

FAX: (559) 353-7176

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Child Advocacy

The Child Advocacy Clinic at Children's Hospital Central California is a full-service practice providing expert diagnosis and management of suspected child maltreatment cases in infants, children and adolescents. We encourage a full multidisciplinary approach to patient care utilizing community resources as well as experts on staff in many fields who become part of the child's care team. The medical professionals will assist in protecting an injured child or to intervene preventively in all cases that are identified and referred.

Child maltreatment is a specialty that typically deals with a multitude of child maltreatment issues including unexplained injuries, emotional abuse, suspected histories for sexual abuse or physical abuse, neglect and exposure to domestic violence. Early identification and clear documentation of findings are paramount to the child's safety and well-being. The way the clinic identifies child maltreatment is through forensic sexual abuse and physical abuse exams. For the child entering foster care, medical clearance exams are completed at the request of Child Protective Services and foster care agencies.

Child Advocacy Consultant Reference Guide

As a medical professional, you are a mandated reporter. You must report to your local Child Protective Services if you suspect abuse. A person who fails to make a required report is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine (Penal Code 11172[e]).

Patients should be referred if they have disclosed physical or sexual abuse. If the physician suspects injuries or findings are suspicious for abuse, please refer the child to the clinic for evaluation.

Condition	Pre-referral Work-up	When to Refer
Child Sexual Abuse	Urine PCR. Do not treat positive cases prior to referral.	Any child or adolescent who discloses abuse. Pain or bleeding from the genital or perineal area. Sexually transmitted infection (STI) in nonsexually active children and adolescents. Pregnancy in children younger than 18 years old. Sexualized behavior.
Child Physical Abuse	Children under 2 years old need skeletal survey if fractures or significant injuries are seen. Bleeding studies including PT, PTT, INR, CBC if significant bruising is noted. Acute fractures need X-rays.	Significant bruising not age appropriate. Unexplained injuries. Injuries in a child not ambulating. Multiple visits for injuries in a young child (under 1 year of age).
Child Maltreatment: Emotional Abuse and/or Domestic Violence	Report to law enforcement and Child Protective Services. Referral to Victims of Crime if possible.	When a history or suspected history is disclosed. Worried about safety of child with caregivers. Injuries are seen on the child. Self-inflicted injuries are identified.
Medical Clearance Examination	Rule out any emergency medical situation and contact appropriate emergency room, if needed. Document any injury or bruising.	Placed in protective custody and general physical exam is required. Recent change in foster care placement.

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Resources:

California Abuse Reporting Law, Penal Code Section 11164-11174.5;

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate?WAISdocID=93760323573+0+0+0&WAIAction=retrieve>

Suspected Child Abuse Report; http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf

Definitions:

Physical Abuse: The child has suffered, or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer, serious physical harm inflicted nonaccidentally upon the child by the child's parent or guardian.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual assault or sexual exploitation as defined by the following:

(a) "Sexual assault" means conduct in violation of one or more of the following sections: rape, statutory rape, rape in concert, incest, sodomy, lewd or lascivious acts upon a child, oral copulation, sexual penetration, or child molestation.

(b) Conduct described as "sexual assault" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Any penetration, however slight, of the vagina or anal opening of one person by the penis of another person, whether or not there is the emission of semen.

(2) Any sexual contact between the genitals or anal opening of one person and the mouth or tongue of another person.

(3) Any intrusion by one person into the genitals or anal opening of another person, including the use of any object for this purpose, except that, it does not include acts performed for a valid medical purpose.

(4) The intentional touching of the genitals or intimate parts (including the breasts, genital area, groin, inner thighs, and buttocks) or the clothing covering them, of a child, or of the perpetrator by a child, for purposes of sexual arousal or gratification, except that, it does not include acts which may reasonably be construed to be normal caretaker responsibilities; interactions with, or demonstrations of affection for, the child; or acts performed for a valid medical purpose.

(5) The intentional masturbation of the perpetrator's genitals in the presence of a child.

(c) "Sexual exploitation" refers to any of the following:

(1) Conduct involving matter depicting a minor engaged in obscene acts (preparing, selling, or distributing obscene matter) or employment of minor to perform obscene acts.

General Neglect: The child has suffered, or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer, serious physical harm or illness, as a result of the failure or inability of his or her parent or guardian to adequately supervise or protect the child. Lack of emergency shelter for the family does not fall under this definition but still may be a safety issue.

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Insurance Plans*

Aetna EPO/HMO/PPO

AllCare IPA

Bakersfield Family Medical Center/ Heritage Physician Network

Blue Cross HMO/ Prudent Buyer PPO/ Healthy Families EPO

Blue Cross Medi-Cal/ Healthy Families HMO

Blue Shield HMO/ PPO/ Healthy Families

Capp Care (Beachstreet)

Catholic Healthcare West-Bakersfield

CCS – California Children's Services

Central California Alliance for Health

Central Valley Medical Group CVMG

Choice Care

Cigna/ Greatwest

Delano Regional Medical Group

EHS IPA (Blue Cross Managed Medi-Cal Patients/Healthy Families)

Emmanuel Employee Benefit Plan

First Health/ CCN

Foundation HealthCare Administrators/ California Foundation for Medical Care

GemCare IPA/ Managed Care Systems

Health Net HMO/ PPO/ Healthy Families/ Healthy Kids

Health Net Medi-Cal / CalViva

Health Plan San Joaquin Medi-Cal/ Healthy Families

Hill Physician Medical Group

Interplan

Kaiser HMO/ Healthy Families/ Medi-Cal

Kern Health Systems Medi-Cal/ Healthy Families

Key /Mosaic Medical Group IPA

LaSalle IPA (Blue Cross Managed Medi-Cal)

Medicare

MediCal – California State

MedCore Medical Group

Multiplan/ PHCS

Sante IPA

Sutter Gould Medical Foundation

Sutter Hospital System (Modesto Memorial, Memorial Los Banos, Sutter Tracy)

TriWest (Formally TRICARE/CHAMPUS)

United HealthCare /PacifiCare

Universal Care

* Contracted Status subject to change. If you have questions or to verify coverage please call 559.353.8800/888.824.5439