

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Board

Bruising / Marks - Flowchart

Management of bruising, bites and suspicious marks in children for Community health professionals and child care workers

Community health professionals and child care workers Presentation

Bruising/Marks which suggests the possibility of Non Accidental Injury include:

- Bruising/Marks in babies (in arms).
- Bruising/Marks in children who are not independently mobile (including disabled)
- Bruises/Marks that are seen away from bony prominences
- Bruises/Marks around mouth & cheeks, back, abdomen, upper arms, buttocks & ear lobes.
- Multiple bruises/Marks in clusters
- Multiple bruises/ marks of uniform shape
- Bruises /marks that carry an imprint – of an implement or cord

Making an 'Assessment

A mark/bruise should never be interpreted in isolation and must always be assessed in the context of the child's medical and social history, developmental stage and explanation given. Where practitioners have a concern that marks or injuries may be as a result of abuse or neglect they should seek a child protection medical via MASH.

Non-mobile babies/immobile children

It is recommended that in all cases of bruising/suspicious marks in non-mobile infants/immobile children you:
Advise carers of your concerns (you can show this flowchart to explain the actions that you must take)

Refer to MASH and/or paediatrician

If the infant appears seriously ill or injured seek emergency treatment

Mobile Children

Be alert to multiple or large facial bruising)
Does history fit the bruising?

Yes

Record assessment & no further action

NO

- If carer is present advise them of your concerns and refer to MASH
- If carer not present do not contact but refer to MASH and ascertain the action plan
- Contact your safeguarding lead if in doubt but do not delay if you are unable to make immediate contact

MASH Referral- telephone 0300 126 1000

- **Clearly State your concerns**
- **Are parents aware of referral**
- **Give your contact details.**
- **Check plan of action by reflecting back (expectation that SW will attend maybe with police and have arranged a child protection medical with paediatrician)**
- **Advise your safeguarding lead of your actions**
- **Follow up with referral form and email to mash@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk**

**Document all information in your agency records/ system with body maps
DO NOT PHOTOGRAPH**