

I am worried about the assessment

We understand that the assessment may be upsetting and that you may feel anxious or worried. We will keep you informed of what is happening and will treat you with courtesy and sensitivity.

If you do not understand any part of the process and need further explanation, then ask the professionals involved who can then provide you with more information.



How can I make a comment about my child's treatment?

The Customer Care Team of the Health Trust where your baby or child's examination is done can help in resolving any concerns you may have. They can provide information and advice and will liaise with other staff and departments to help resolve problems and concerns as quickly as possible.

Further Information and Support

Children and Families Contact Swindon:

01793 464646

Email:

Contactchildrenandfamilies@swindon.gov.uk

Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 4.40pm

Friday 8.30am – 4pm

Emergency Duty Service (ED):

01793 436699

Is available outside of office hours

National Society for the Prevention
Of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC):

0808 800 5000

www.nspcc.org.uk

Family Rights Group:

0808 801 0366

www.frg.org.uk



Bruising and injuries in babies and children



Information for
parents and carers
about bruising or
injuries on babies
and children who are
not independently
mobile

A bruise, injury or mark has been noticed on your baby or child. This leaflet has been provided to explain the protocol that we follow for Swindon Children. Similar protocols exist in other areas of the country as well.



Is bruising common in babies?

No. Bruising in babies or children who are not rolling or crawling is unusual. It is very unusual for a baby to get a bruise during everyday activities such as nappy changes, bathing or feeding.

Bruising can be related to a health condition which has not been previously identified, and further medical assessment may be required. However, sometimes bruising in babies or children is due to a deliberate injury and therefore it is important that each baby is fully assessed.

Accidents do occur. You may feel that you are able to explain the reason for your baby or child having a bruise or mark. However, your baby or child will still need to be carefully assessed. It can take an opinion from a Consultant Paediatrician (specialist children's doctor) to be able to tell the difference between bruises and other types of mark.

What happens now?

Everyone working with children must follow the bruising protocol when they find a bruise, injury or a mark which appears to be a bruise, in a non-mobile baby or child (a baby or child who is unable to move around on their own).

Sometimes, even when children are moving around by themselves, there can be concerns about how a mark, injury or bruise occurred and in these situations checks will be made.

Whenever there are concerns about any bruise or mark we will work closely with social workers and the police who may want to talk to you as well.

1. A referral is made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) who act as a single point of contact.

2. Your baby or child's case will be discussed. Part of this assessment involves gathering information from other agencies who may hold information about your family, or who may be working directly with you.

3. A request will be made for an examination by a Paediatrician at your local hospital or community health clinic. This is usually done as soon as possible the same day.

What will the Paediatrician do?

The Paediatrician will ask you all about your baby or child. This will include when the bruise was first noticed and whether you know how the bruise may have happened.

The Paediatrician will do a full examination which includes undressing your baby or child. They will ask for your consent as the parent or carer, to perform examinations or other tests. Once the examination has been completed the Paediatrician will discuss the outcome of their assessment with you.

Further tests or investigations may be required such as taking blood, X-rays, scans or eye examinations. This is to ensure that there are no underlying medical conditions or signs of non-accidental injury. These tests can take time and may involve staying in hospital so it would be helpful to take some provisions with you just in case. When X-rays are required they may need repeating in about two weeks.

The Paediatrician will also speak to the Local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to let them know the outcome of the assessment. Together the Paediatrician and MASH will jointly decide whether any further action is needed.



**Swindon
Safeguarding
Partnership**