



Child Abuse Medical Provider Program

www.CHAMPprogram.com

The CHAMP Program

Child abuse is an epidemic. According to New York State Child Protective Services data 209,425 children were reported as abused in 2006. That makes child abuse ten times more common than children killed or injured in car crashes and forty times more common than children with elevated blood lead levels.

Since its founding in 1997, the Child Abuse Medical Provider (CHAMP) Program has worked to improve New York State's medical response to child abuse.

In 2006 the NYS statute and funding enabled CHAMP to build on its foundation as a network of child abuse experts that train medical providers to evaluate suspected child sexual abuse. CHAMP was able to expand its focus to include all forms of child abuse and develop education for all of the State's pediatric medical providers. It has built an infrastructure that uses the Internet to support education and quality assurance through its website www.CHAMPprogram.com.

NYS child advocacy centers (CACs) and multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) need CHAMP resources in order to meet national standards for medical care as outlined by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) at its Ely Conference. This includes:

- Competency-based training for evaluating suspected child sexual abuse
- Continuing medical education through webcasts of case reviews and expert-led seminars
- Quality assurance through expert review of cases
- Child abuse experts that serve as resources through CHAMP's Centers of Excellence
- Research-based and expert-reviewed practice recommendations.

Pediatric primary care providers and emergency department medical staff need CHAMP to create easy-to-access Internet-based education that enables them to better diagnose, treat and report child abuse and neglect.

- Most children are seen by medical providers for well child as well as acute care visits. These visits can be utilized to save children from further abuse as well as prevent it.
- Better reporting of suspected child abuse means that the child protective system can be more effective.
- When child abuse goes unrecognized, children suffer ongoing, and often escalating, abuse that can result in death.

The past 10 years of funding have created a nationally recognized, statewide organization that is improving the NYS medical response to child abuse. Now is not the time to abandon this effort. Children's lives are at stake.

[Every child deserves a skilled medical exam when child abuse is suspected.](#)