

# 2014 Physical Abuse Evaluations

## What To Do When Physical Abuse Is Suspected In A Child Under 2 Years Old

**Determine if forensic evidence will be collected prior to bathing and removal of clothing.**

### History

#### Complete history, including:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Review available prior medical records (PCP, ED, Inpatient and CPS)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review prior radiologic examinations that were performed at referring hospitals
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review prior photographs

### Physical

#### Complete physical examination, especially:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Growth parameters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inspection of all body parts and thorough skin exam
- \_\_\_\_\_ Palpation of legs, arms, hands, feet and ribs to feel for crepitus or deformities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete neurologic examination
- \_\_\_\_\_ Oral examination with attention to the lip, tongue, buccal mucosa, frenula, palate and teeth
- \_\_\_\_\_ Auricle exam
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inspection of the scalp and hair
- \_\_\_\_\_ Genitalia examination

### Consults

- \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital Social Work
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pediatric ophthalmologist; ask for photographs of the retina
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medical photography when available even if CPS also takes photos
- \_\_\_\_\_ Request an official radiology reading and upload image of outside films
- \_\_\_\_\_ SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) if concern of concurrent sexual abuse  $\leq 96$  hrs prior to presentation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Consider Neurosurgery, Ortho, ENT

### Diagnostic tests

#### Consider:

- \_\_\_\_\_ CBC with platelets, LFTs, amylase/lipase, PT/PTT, UA and stool guaiac
- \_\_\_\_\_ UDS/Toxicology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Skeletal survey with oblique views of ribs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brain imaging (CT acutely; MRI for follow-up)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forensic Evidence Kit per SANE consult

### Documentation

- \_\_\_\_\_ History obtained, from whom
- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical findings with drawings and measurements
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tests ordered/performed and results
- \_\_\_\_\_ Impression: **suspected** physical abuse

**Do not attempt to further interpret findings if uncertain.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ FAX Impact statement to CPS or police, if applicable

### Reporting

#### Call NYS Mandated Reporter Hotline

#### 1-800-635-1522 to make a report.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ask them to check if there are other children in the home. They must be evaluated by their PCP.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ask for a scene investigation, if necessary.

**As a licensed professional, you are required to report suspected abuse. A referral to the child abuse expert is not the same as a hotline report to Child Protective Services.**

### At discharge from the hospital

- \_\_\_\_\_ Document head circumference and other growth parameters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make appointments with PCP and other sub-specialists if applicable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fax script for follow-up skeletal survey to be performed 2 weeks from date of incident.

### Further Information

Kellogg ND and the Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. *Evaluation of suspected child physical abuse*. Pediatrics. 2001; 119 (6): 1232-1241.

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;119/6/1232>

Botash AS. *Child Abuse Evaluation and Treatment for Medical Providers*. 2010

<http://www.ChildAbuseMD.com>

**Ann S. Botash MD and the CARE Program  
for the Child Abuse Medical Provider Program.**

**[www.CHAMPprogram.com](http://www.CHAMPprogram.com)**