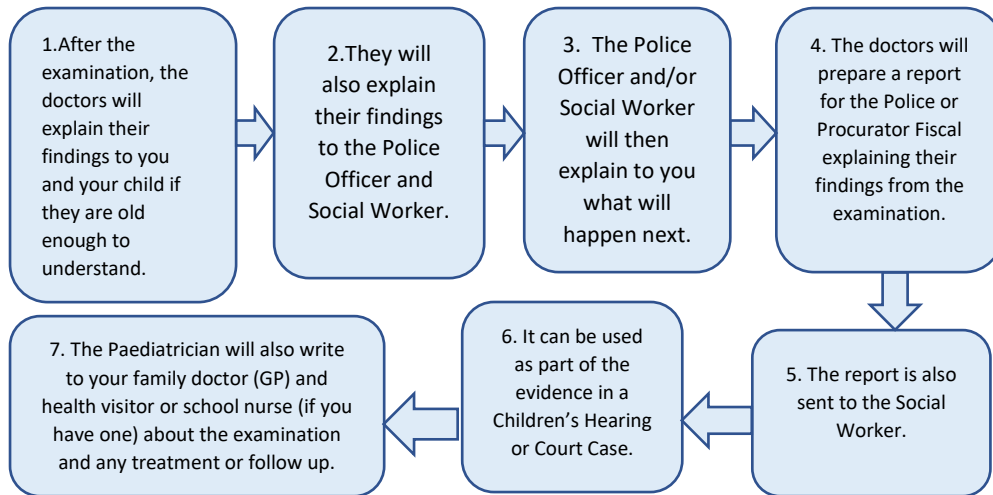


What happens after the examination?



After reading this leaflet, please make sure you ask questions about anything you do not understand or want to know more about.

More information and Support:

Social Worker Name:

Telephone:

Police Officer Name:

Telephone:

Or contact your local Social Work Office & Police Station.



Rape Crisis Scotland:

08088 01 03 02 (free number) every day, 6pm to midnight

www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk support@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk



Barnardo's: 0131 446 7000 www.barnardos.org.uk/scotland



Childline: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk



Children1st: 0131 446 2300 www.children1st.org.uk



Women's Aid: 0800 027 1234 www.womensaid.scot



Child Protection

A Guide to the Medical Examination of Your Child

Information for Parents and Carers



You have received this leaflet as we are asking you to agree to a medical examination for your child. This is because of concerns from other Health Workers, a Social Worker or Police.



SCAN ME



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getting
it right
for every child

Who will do the examination?

There are usually two doctors:

A Paediatrician who is a doctor that works with children. This doctor has special training in seeing children who may have been abused or where there are other concerns eg concerns about wellbeing.

A Forensic Doctor is another Doctor who also has special training.

Together they make a joint assessment. They can then give an opinion about how an injury might have happened and respond to the initial concerns.

Sometimes only one doctor may be needed or a doctor in training is also there. If you are not happy with this, let us know.

Who else will be there?

Children usually like to have a parent or carer with them. Sometimes this may not be possible or is not appropriate. If this is the case, an explanation will be given and the option of another person such as a close friend or a nurse, offered instead.

The Social Worker and Police Officer will be there too but they will wait outside the curtain screen during the examination.

If you require, an interpreter will be provided for you.

Consent

At the start, you and your child will be asked if you agree to the examination going ahead. This is called 'consent'.

You will be asked to sign a consent form or give permission over the phone if you cannot be there in person. Your child can only do this for themselves if they are old enough and can understand what will happen. To do this for themselves, they usually need to be at least 12 years old.

Before giving consent, you must be happy that you fully understand what is going to happen and how any photographs, results or samples taken will be used. You have the **right to refuse** all or any part of the examination and also **change your mind**, even after it starts. You or the doctors can also stop the examination if your child wishes or if he or she becomes distressed.

If you decide not to consent or ask to stop the examination, the doctors will speak to you with the Police and Social worker to help decide what is best for your child.

What will they do?

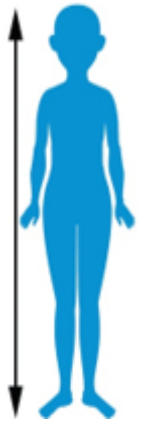
A nurse will weigh and measure your child to check their growth.

The doctors will ask you questions about your child's health from the time he or she was born until now. This is because they need to know about any health problems that may affect your child. They will also ask about the family and home so that they can build up a picture of your child's daily life.

The examination is a very thorough top-to-toe examination. Extra care is taken to look for any bruises or injuries and these may be measured.

Your child's development will also be checked.

Sometimes an intimate examination is needed to check for injuries. This happens when the concerns are of a sexual nature or if your child has symptoms in the genital area. If needed, this will be explained to you at the time of consent.



Recording the examination

The doctors will draw and describe any injuries they find. Sometimes they need to take photographs. These are taken by a specially trained Police Photographer. These will only be seen by the doctors and the Police. If the case goes to a Children's Hearing or court, they may also be seen by members of the Children's Panel or Court.

Intimate examinations are usually recorded on a video or DVD. This means that children do not need to be examined again if the doctors need a second opinion, as they can look at the video recording instead. The recording does not have the child's face or name on it and it is stored in a secure place. This is in line with the Data Protection Act. It would only be seen by other doctors if they need a second opinion.

Other Tests and Treatment

Some children may need to have tests such as blood tests or x-rays. These help the doctors find out about medical conditions or find injuries that cannot be seen by examination. Sometimes children need to be admitted to hospital for tests or treatment but this is rare. Any tests, treatment or follow-up appointment that your child needs will be explained to you.