

Child Abuse and Neglect Guide

Brief intervention

1. Identification of signs and symptoms.
2. Validation and support.
3. Health and risk assessment (dual assessment, including co-occurrence of IPV).
4. Intervention/safety planning (if concerns about immediate safety call Police and refer to CYF).
5. Referral and follow-up to CYF or other agency (see Safety planning/referral).
6. Documentation of history, examination, assessment, consultation process and referral(s).

Consultation is important

Always consult with staff trained in child protection eg, paediatrician, social worker, senior nurse, CYF.

Seek peer-support/supervision following a disclosure of abuse.

Identification

- Take a history from parents/caregivers.
- Observe child-caregiver interaction, eg, parent indifferent or intolerant or reporting child as particularly troublesome.
- If a child has an injury, ask about the injury using open-ended, non-leading questions.
- Ask young people about possible abuse, ie, HEEADSSS assessment.
- Past history; review past records for history of abuse/suspected abuse/alerts.
- Social history:
 - routine enquiry IPV
 - other important information (see next card).
- Physical examination.
- Complete the child protection checklist (child up to age of 2 years presented to ED).