

Non-mobile baby

Policy statement

This is to provide practitioners with a strategy for the assessment, management and referral of children who are not independently mobile who present with bruising or otherwise suspicious marks; bleeding from the nose/mouth fractures (which may present as a swelling on the head or with reduced movement of a limb); possible non accidental head injury (NAHI) or a burn/ scald.

Procedures

It is the duty of the DSL to report any child who presents with any of the above. The guidance recognises that professional judgement and responsibility have to be exercised at all times, it errs on the side of caution by requiring that:

- · **All** not independently mobile children with bruising or a burn or scald should be referred to Paediatrics AND to Children's Social Care.
- · **All** not independently mobile children with bleeding, a swelling of the head or reduction in movement of a limb (which may indicate a fracture at that site) should be discussed with a consultant paediatrician. There should be low threshold for referring to both Paediatrics and Children's Social Care.
- While it is not always easy to identify with certainty a skin mark as a bruise or a burn a practitioner should take action in line with this protocol; if they suspect that the observed skin mark could be a bruise or a burn or could be the result of injury or trauma.
- Other marks, abrasions or presentations in children not independently mobile always require an explanation, and action should be based on professional judgement and usual safeguarding practice. Professionals should not suggest a possible reason for the bruising/bleeding/swelling but ask an open question to seek an explanation from the parent/ carer.

- **Records must be signed, timed, dated, accurate, comprehensive and contemporaneous.**

Legal framework

- Children Act (1989 s47)
- Protection of Children Act (1999)
- The Children Act (2004 s11)
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Childcare Act (2006)
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018