

Just a Cheat Sheet for the Initial Evaluation of Suspected Child Physical Abuse

Consider abuse in any child from any family with any injury when:

- Multiple injuries to multiple organ systems
- Denial of trauma in child with significant injury
- History inconsistent with injury
- History incompatible with child's development
- History that changes with time
- Unexpected and unexplained delay in seeking treatment

Suspected Abusive Head Trauma (including "Shaken Baby Syndrome")

- Brain CT or MRI
- Skeletal survey* for child under age 2
- Retinal exam (preferably by pediatric ophthalmologist)
- Standard labs**
- Hospital admission to pediatric center
- Report to Child Protective Services***

Suspected Abusive Fracture(s)

- Skeletal survey* for child under age 2
- Standard labs** plus calcium, phosphorus, alkaline phosphate
- Brain CT or MRI for infants (<1 y/o) and consider brain CT or MRI for 1-2 y/o
- Consider hospital admission
- Report to Child Protective Services***

Suspected Abusive Burns

- Skeletal survey* for child under age 2
- Photo-document if possible
- Consider standard labs** plus electrolytes
- Consider hospital admission/pediatric burn center
- Report to Child Protective Services***

**For free child abuse education, visit:
www.pascan.org**

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Pennsylvania Chapter

Suspected Abusive Abdominal Trauma

- Skeletal survey* for child under age 2
- Abdominal imaging
- Standard labs**
- Brain CT or MRI for infants (<1 y/o) and consider brain CT or MRI for 1-2 y/o
- Hospital admission
- Report to Child Protective Services***

Suspected Abusive Bruising

- Skeletal survey* for child under age 2
- Photo-document, if possible
- Standard labs**
- Consider brain CT or MRI
- Consider hospital admission
- Report to Child Protective Services***

* **Skeletal survey** (not a babygram) as per the American College of Radiology standards. Look for rib fractures, metaphyseal fractures, skull fractures, long bone fractures. Consider repeat skeletal survey in 2-3 weeks to better identify rib and metaphyseal fractures.

** **Standard labs include:** CBC with platelet count, PT/PTT/INR, LFTs, amylase, lipase, U/A.

*** **Child Protective Services referral:**

Pennsylvania: 1-800-932-0313

New Jersey: 1-877-652-2873

Delaware: 1-800-292-9582

New York: 1-800-342-3720

Ohio: Call Childhelp at 1-800-422-4453

for number of county agency

Maryland: Call Childhelp at 1-800-422-4453
for number of county agency

West Virginia: 1-800-352-6513