

Procedure for Child Protection Paediatric Examination.

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CHILD PROTECTION PAEDIATRIC EXAMINATION

BEDFORD PCT And BEDFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to detail agreed procedures and decision- making pathways to ensure that when a child or young person is alleged or suspected to have suffered significant harm, the child will be medically examined by a doctor with appropriate skills and expertise.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Children who have or may have been subjected to physical or sexual abuse or neglect may require medical assessment, advice and treatment. Medical examination may be required for both clinical and forensic purposes.
- 2.2 Joint examinations (by a Police Surgeon and Paediatrician) may be appropriate where clinically and forensically relevant. However, joint examinations by Paediatricians and Police Surgeons are not logistically possible for every child or young person.
- 2.3 All referrers will maintain a low threshold for referral to Community Paediatricians about physical and sexual harm. Community Paediatricians expect and welcome discussions with all referral agencies (Police, Social Workers and General Practitioners) about any child or young person. The acute paediatric service provides 24-hour access for advice and examination in the event of children requiring urgent or acute management for any reason.
- 2.4 The majority of children should be seen during the daytime. Examination of children in the night is rarely needed other than in cases of acute assault, either for medical or forensic necessity.

3 REFERRAL PROCESSES

- 3.1 Children requiring medical examination for child protection concerns are best seen in the Community Clinics. Referrals can be made to the Community Paediatric Team of Bedford PCT on weekdays between 09.00 – 16.30 hours. If the child has an injury / condition that requires urgent medical assistance they should be referred to the Accident & Emergency department at Bedford Hospital. However, for less immediate needs this is not the location of first choice and the referral should be made to the Paediatric Registrar carrying bleep 208.

4 PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS OF CHILDREN WITH SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE BEDFORD PCT – COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S SERVICES

- 4.1 In the first instance, anyone who has concerns about the care and protection of a child should contact Children’s Services (Local Authority) to express their concerns. Community Paediatricians do not accept referrals directly from General Practitioners.
- 4.2 Children with suspected sexual, emotional, physical abuse or neglect, not requiring urgent medical treatment or immediate investigations, are referred to the Children’s Services (Community Paediatrics), Bedford PCT, between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm on weekdays (excluding Bank Holidays). The Social Worker or the Police Officer should phone the Medical Secretaries on 01234 310071/72/73 giving details of the referral. They should also Fax the referral to the Children’s Services (Community Paediatrics) on 01234 310075 and inform the Medical Secretaries.
- 4.3 The Secretary receiving the call will log it, note appropriate details and will contact the Paediatrician on the Child Protection Rota.
- 4.4 The Paediatrician concerned is responsible for making sure that the child is examined in a timely manner. If it is not possible to examine the child on the same day, he/she will make alternative arrangements to ensure the child is seen as soon as possible.
- 4.5 Should the situation arise out of hours and examination is considered to be urgently required, the Social Worker/ Police should contact the on-call Paediatric Registrar at Bedford Hospital for further advice (Tel: 01234 – 355122 and ask for Paediatric Registrar bleep 208).
- 4.6 Children with sexual abuse allegations or concerns, who do not require urgent medical attention or forensic investigation out of hours should be seen by the Community Paediatricians, following a strategy meeting if possible, the following day.
- 4.7 **There should be close communication, preferably, directly between the referring agency and the doctor concerned. All communications should be documented including contact names.**
- 4.8 A report will be circulated within 3 working days.

5 BEDFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST- DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS

5.1 Bedford Hospital Paediatric Department provides a Child Protection Service, as detailed in 2.3, 3.1 and 4.5.

- Urgent and acute management
- Urgent out of hours advice and management via the Paediatric on- call Registrar by telephoning Bedford Hospital (01234 355122) and asking for the Paediatric Registrar (Bleep 208).

5.2 On most occasions the child will be seen on Riverbank ward. There may be unavoidable delay in the event of emergencies on the ward, as out of hours, the number of available Paediatric Doctors is limited.

5.3 A report will be issued within 5 working days.

5.4 At all times, there should be close communications, directly if possible, between the referring agency and the doctor(s) concerned. All communications should be documented including contact names.

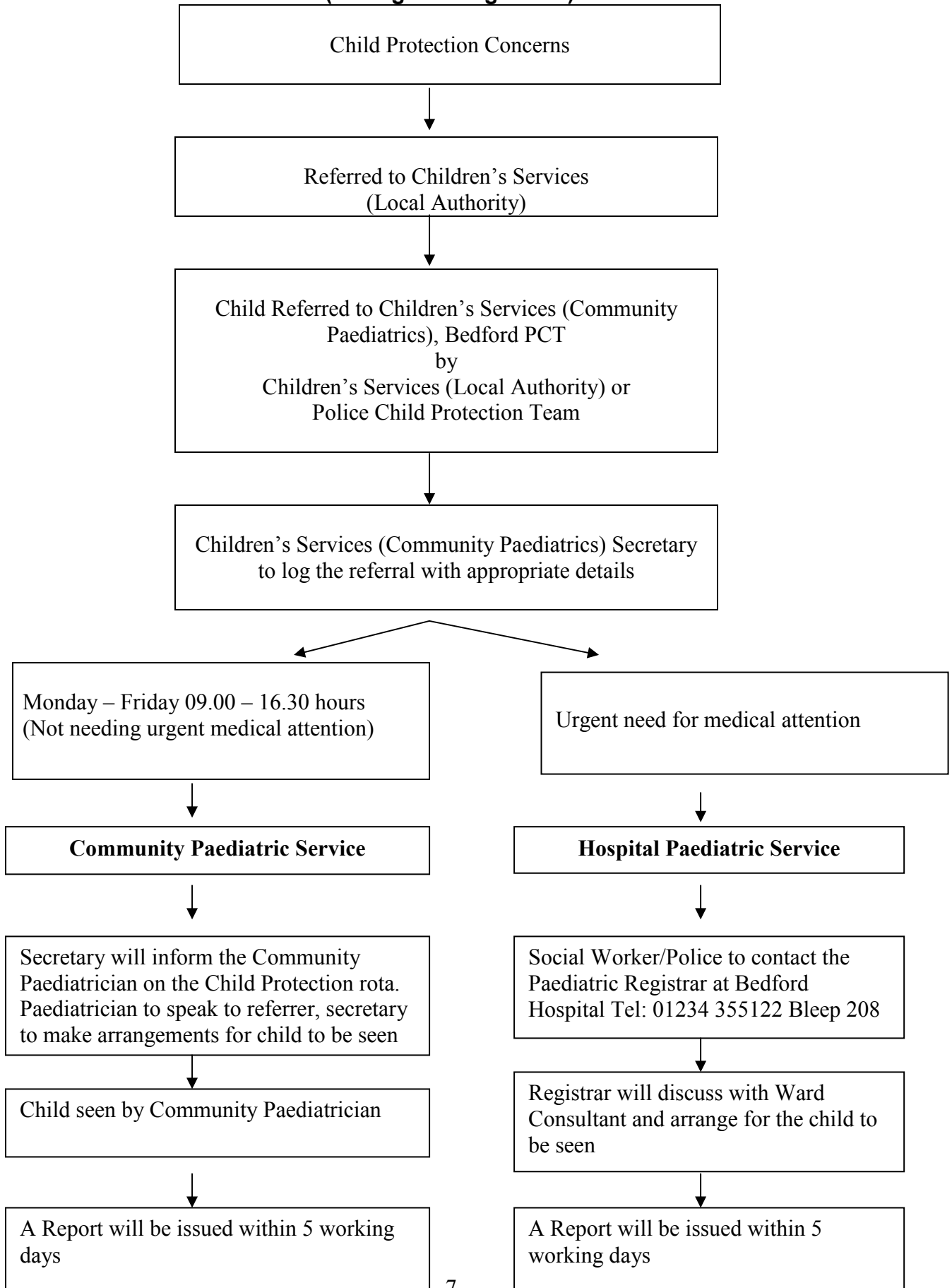
5.5 When there are child protection concerns about a child seen either in the Accident & Emergency Department or on the ward an enquiry must be made to the 'At Risk Register'. A referral is then made to Children's Services (Local Authority) via telephone. This will be followed by a written referral within 48 hours or 2 working days, indicating the concerns and will be faxed to a secure fax number or in the post as arranged. A copy of the referral should be placed in the child's hospital notes, and the Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children should also receive a copy. See Appendix

The only situation where the correspondence with Children's Services (Local Authority) should not be filed in the notes is in the case of suspected fabricated or induced illness.

6 REFERRAL PATHWAY FOR OUT OF HOURS CHILD PROTECTION MEDICAL

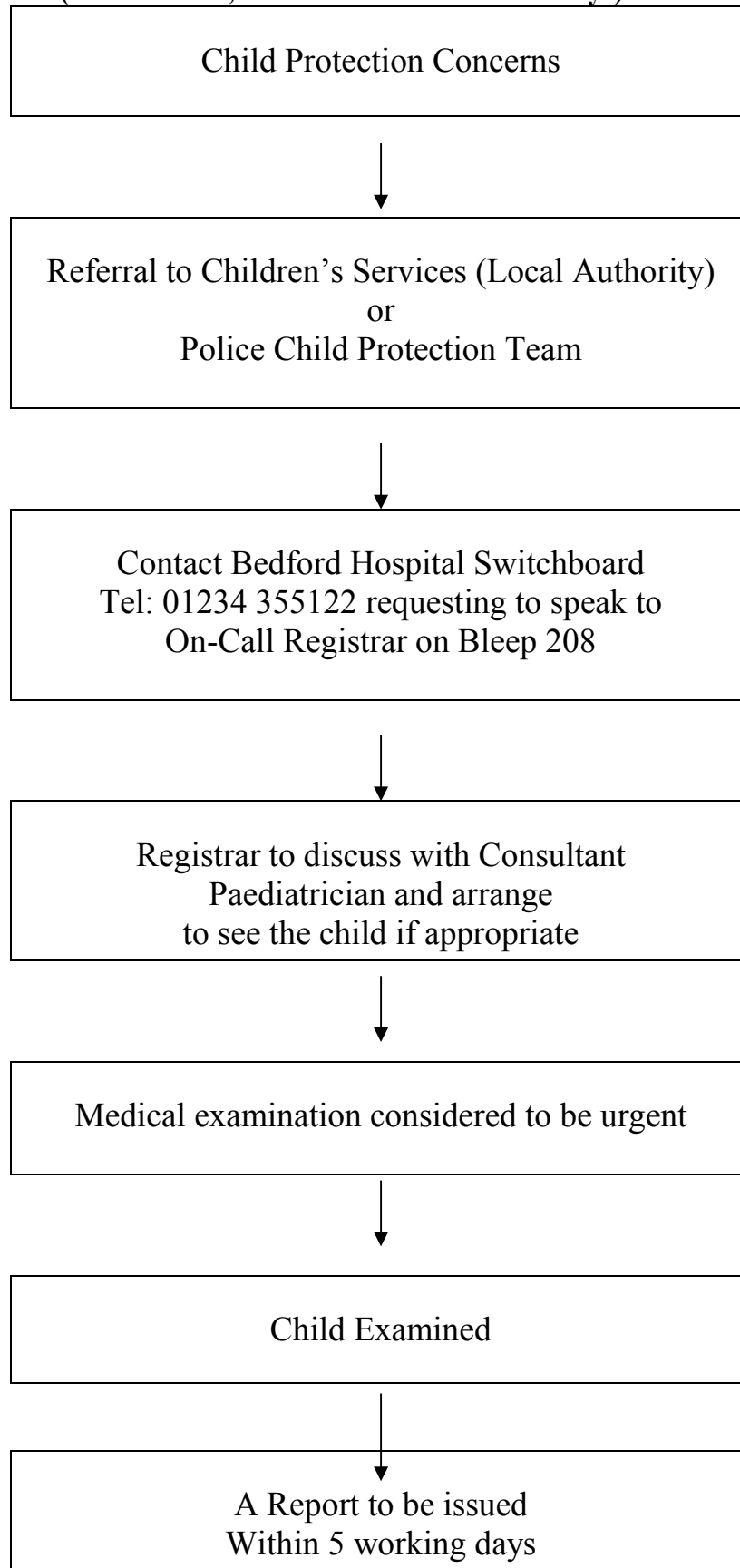
- 6.1 In general there are very few situations where a child needs to be seen out of hours unless it is felt that the child needs urgent medical attention, there is a time constraint on obtaining forensic specimens (in which case, a police surgeon should also be available) or there is a clear urgency relating to decisions on a place of safety, or gathering evidence.**
- 6.2 If there are concerns that a child needs to be seen, the switchboard at Bedford Hospital should be contacted (01234 355122) and the referrer should speak to the Registrar on-call (Bleep 208). The Registrar will discuss with the on-call consultant and an arrangement will be made to see the child as appropriate.
- 6.3 If a child presents in Accident & Emergency or in the Paediatric Department and there are child protection concerns an enquiry will be made to the register and Children's Services (Local Authority) will be contacted with the concerns and an arrangement made for an appropriate investigation as in 5.5.

**REFERRAL PATHWAY FOR CHILD PROTECTION MEDICALS
(During working hours)**



**REFERRAL PATHWAY TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN A CHID NEEDS TO BE SEEN
OUT OF HOURS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION ABOUT WHOM THERE ARE
CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS**

(Out of hours, Weekends and Bank Holidays)



APPENDIX	
	Telephone Numbers
Bedford PCT Medical Secretaries Children's Services (Community Paediatrics)	01234 310071 01234 310072 01234 310073
Bedford Hospital Switchboard	01234 355122
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust Paediatric Secretaries	01234 792255 (Dr. Leigh) 01234 792256 (Dr. Mehta) 01234 792061 (Dr. Pocha & Dr. Rehman) 01234 355122 – Ext 5727 (Dr. Kwapong)
Paediatric Registrar Riverbank Ward	01234 355122 - Bleep 208 01234 355122 - Ext 5754
Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children Bedford Hospital	01234 355122 - Ext 5949 Pager 07699746768
Children's Services (Local Authority) - First Response Team	Kingsway Children's Services (Local Authority) – Bedford 01234 223599 Fax – 01234 353263
Dunstable First Response Team	Vernon Place, Dunstable 01582 665861 Fax – 01582 476134