Minnesota Child Abuse Network
ASSESSMENT FOR PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Head CT (recommended in all)
- Skeletal Survey
- Labs (CBC, Metabolic Panel with Liver Enzymes, Lipase)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Social Work Consult *
- Ophthalmology Consult *
- Trauma Service Consult *

0 - 6 months

- Skeletal Survey
- Labs (CBC, Metabolic Panel with Liver Enzymes, Lipase)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Neuro-Imaging *
- Social Work Consult *
- Ophthalmology Consult *
- Trauma Service Consult *

6 - 12 months

- Labs (CBC, Metabolic Panel with Liver Enzymes, Lipase)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Neuro-Imaging *
- Social Work Consult *
- Ophthalmology Consult *
- Trauma Service Consult *

2 - 5 years

- Labs (CBC, Metabolic Panel with Liver Enzymes, Lipase)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Skeletal Survey (Extensive Trauma, Developmental Delays, Burns)
- Neuro-imaging *
- Social Work Consult *
- Trauma Service Consult *

1-2 years

- Labs (CBC, Metabolic Panel with Liver Enzymes, Lipase)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Neuro-Imaging *
- Social Work Consult *
- Trauma Service Consult *

5 years and older

- Labs (CBC, Metabolic Panel with Liver Enzymes, Lipase, Urine Drug Screen) *
- Neuro-Imaging *
- Social Work Consult *
- Mental Health Assessment

* Clinical Indicators

- Labs – Non-Patterned Bruising or ICH: add PT/PTT; Extensive Trauma: add CPK
- Abdominal Imaging – AST or ALT > 80 and/or abdominal bruising/tenderness
- Neuro-Imaging - Altered Mental Status, Skull Fracture(s), Bruising Face/Head
- Ophthalmology – Positive Neuro-Imaging and/or Altered Mental Status
- Social Work Consult – Suspected Abuse/Neglect, Ingestions, CPS involvement
- Trauma Service Consult – Head, Abdomen and Multi-system Trauma
- Contact a Child Abuse Physician for guidance on evaluation and management

Updated 08/01/2017
Otto Bremer Trust Center for Safe & Healthy Children
safechild@fairview.org
**Assessment for Physical Abuse: Injury Patterns, “Red Flags” & Child Abuse Programs**

**When the following injuries are present,**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unusual Locations of Injury &amp; Patterned Skin Injuries (P)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEN-4 FACES-p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEN:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torso (trunk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck</td>
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<tr>
<td>FACES:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frenulum (mouth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angle of the Jaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eyelids (bruising)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subconjunctival Hemorrhage (eye)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4: Bruises in the TEN distribution in a child under 4 years of age, or ANY bruise in an infant less than 4.99 months of age

**ADDITIONAL MEDICAL EVALUATION IS ALWAYS INDICATED:**
- Rib Fractures
- Metaphyseal Fractures
- Longbone Fracture (non-ambulatory)
- Bruising (infants less than 6 months)
- Oral or Pharyngeal Injury (non-ambulatory)
- Abdominal Injury (non-MVC under 5 yrs)
- Head Injury (unwitnessed, unexplained)

**MOST CHILD FATALITIES:**
1. Occur in children under 4 years of age (80%)
2. Occur at the instigation of a caregiver (80%)
3. Involve head (leading cause) and/or abdominal (second cause) Injury

**What Is An Unexplained Injury:**
1. Injury that is not consistent w/ child's age, developmental abilities, or injury type
2. History that is vague or changes w/ time, repetition, or caregiver
3. Delay in seeking medical care

**Signs of Head Injury*:**
1. Bulging fontanelle (soft spot) in an infant
2. Rapidly increasing head circumference
3. Bruising/Swelling to Face/Head
4. Vomiting or fussiness
5. Unresponsive, “altered mental status”
6. Apnea or change in breathing

**Signs of Abdominal Injury*:**
1. Abdominal pain or distention
2. Abdominal bruising
3. Vomiting
4. Lethargic, “altered mental status”
5. Rectal bleeding
6. Presents in shock, low blood pressure

**Contact a Child Abuse Physician:**
- Univ. of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital
  Minneapolis MN
  Center for Safe & Healthy Children
  (612) 273-SAFE (7233) or (612) 365-1000

- Hennepin County Medical Center
  Minneapolis MN
  Center for Safe & Healthy Children
  (800) 424-4262 Hennepin Connect

- Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota
  Minneapolis and St. Paul MN
  Midwest Children's Resource Center (MCRC)
  (651) 220-6750

- Mayo Clinic
  Rochester MN
  Mayo Child and Family Advocacy Program
  (507) 266-0443 daytime or (507) 284-2511

- Essentia Health
  Duluth MN (218) 786-8364

- Gundersen Health System
  La Crosse WI 1-800-362-9567

- Sanford Health
  Sioux Falls SD
  Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center
  (605) 333-2226

- Sanford Health
  Fargo ND
  Child & Adolescent Maltreatment Service (CAMS) (701) 234-2000 or (877) 647-1225

*Simple household falls rarely result in serious injury.

**These recommendations are not a substitute for expert medical evaluation. It should also not take the place of medical decision-making. Injuries that are suspicious for abuse require careful assessment by a physician or medical provider with expertise in child abuse.**