

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. You are required by law to report your suspicions.
2. Document findings objectively:
 - Body location of the injury
 - Severity of the injury
 - Patterns of similar injury over time
 - Include verbatim statements offered by the child
 - Note verbatim statements from the parent/caregiver
3. Suspect battered or abused child if any of the following is found:
 - A discrepancy exists between history of injury and physical exam.
 - Caregiver provides a changing or inconsistent history.
 - There is a prolonged interval between injury and the seeking of medical help.
 - Child has a history of repeated trauma.
 - Caregiver responds inappropriately or does not comply with medical advice.
 - Suspicious injuries are present, such as:
 - injuries of soft tissue areas, including the face, neck and abdomen,
 - injuries of body areas that are normally shielded, including the back and chest,
 - fractures of long bones in children under 3 years of age,
 - old scars, or injuries in different stages of healing,
 - bizarre injuries, such as bites, cigarette burns, rope marks, imprint of belt or other object,
 - trauma of genital or perianal areas,
 - sharply demarcated burns in unusual areas,
 - scalds that suggest child was dipped into hot water.
4. The following are some common forms of neglect:
 - Environment is dangerous to the child (e.g., weapons within reach, playing near open windows without screen/guards, perilously unsanitary conditions, etc.).
 - Caretaker has not provided, or refuses to permit medical treatment of child's acute or chronic life-threatening illness, or of chronic illness, or fails to seek necessary and timely medical care for child.
 - Child under the age of 10 has been left unattended or unsupervised. (Although in some situations children under 10 years of age may be left alone without endangerment, EMS personnel cannot make such determinations.) All instances should be reported for DCFS investigation.
 - Abandonment
 - Caretaker appears to be incapacitated (e.g., extreme drug/alcohol intoxication, disabling psychiatric symptoms, severe illness) and cannot meet child's care requirements.
 - Child appears inadequately fed (e.g., seriously underweight, emaciated, or dehydrated) inadequately clothed, or inadequately sheltered.
 - Child is found to be intoxicated or under the influence of an illicit substance(s).