



Registered Charity
No 273876

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Churchill House
3rd Floor, 35 Red Lion Square
London, WC1R 4SG
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7404 1999 Fax: +44 (0)20 7067 1267

Email: baem@emergencymedicine.uk.net Web: www.emergencymed.org.uk

CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS A summary of good practice

The purpose of this document is to outline the steps all A&E departments should take to ensure adequate awareness and safe management of child protection issues, on both a case-by-case basis, and as a background safety net.

THE ARMAMENTARIUM (safety net systems):

1. The Trust's Child Protection Policy
2. Notification letters of every child's A&E attendance to:
 - a. The General Practitioner
 - b. The midwife if under 10 days (faxed urgently)
or the Health Visitor for 10 days to 5 years
and ideally the School Nurse for 5-16s¹
3. In-house training for all junior doctors and nurses at induction
4. Easy access to local Child Protection Register(s) by limited staff (senior nurses and doctors) – preferably electronically
5. Consider the checklist², inserted into the notes of all under 5s, as an aide memoire to prompt awareness of child protection issues
6. For larger departments seeing >18,000 new child attendances per annum, consider a weekly, multidisciplinary, psychosocial meeting to review cases of concern. (This is also an opportunity for education of, and dialogue between staff.)
7. An alert system for frequent attenders³

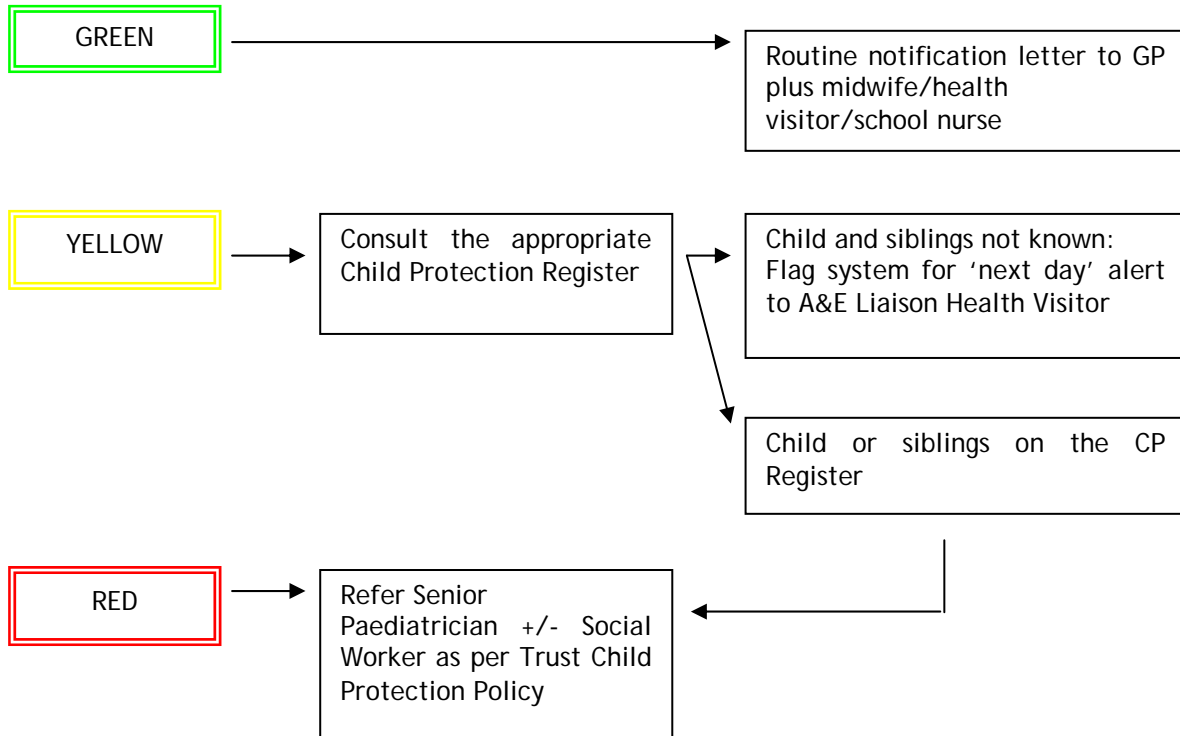
- References:
1. Working together to safeguard children, Dept of Health, 1999
 2. Bengier JR, Pearce AV. Quality Improvement Report. Simple Intervention to Improve Detection of Child Abuse in Emergency Departments. *BMJ* 2002; 324: 780-782
 3. A&E Services for Children, RCPCH 1999

INDIVIDUAL CASES After assessment of the child, establish level of concern:

GREEN = No Concern

YELLOW = Minor concern or not sure

RED = More than minor concern, need further advice



2004
Review - January 2005