



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: TRIAGE OF REFERRALS TO MEDICAL HUB CLINICS FOR FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

POLICY NO: 321.002

PURPOSE:

To provide a system-wide policy on the triage of referrals from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for forensic medical examinations at the Medical Hubs.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to Department of Health Services (DHS)-operated Medical Hub outpatient clinics that serve children referred by the DCFS.

POLICY:

The DHS Medical Hubs require DCFS referrals for forensic medical examinations to be submitted electronically through the E-mHub system and to be followed up by the referring Children's Social Worker (CSW) with a telephone call to the Medical Hub for triage and intake.

Referrals for forensic evaluations meeting the following criteria will be accepted and scheduled by the Medical Hubs, regardless of other case circumstances:

- 1) All children who are alleged victims of child abuse or neglect and are under the age of five, OR are non-verbal, OR have been unable/unwilling to communicate with the CSW about the allegation(s);
- 2) Any case in which the referring CSW communicates to Medical Hub intake staff that he or she feels the child should be seen; and
- 3) Any child for whom a detention decision is being made based on a current physical finding, but an examination or consultation by a trained forensic examiner has not occurred. In these cases, an immediate (same day or next day) appointment will be scheduled, and the CSW will be requested to accompany the child. If an appointment is not available at that Medical Hub, the child will be referred to another Medical Hub with availability.

APPROVED BY:
REVIEW
DATES:

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2012

SUPERSEDES:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

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If the child has received a forensic examination at a facility other than a Medical Hub, the CSW should consult with the Medical Hub to determine whether a Medical Hub examination is needed.

For siblings or other children who live in the same home and/or have contact with the alleged perpetrator (sometimes referred to as “companion cases”), the Medical Hubs will request that the CSW provide complete information at intake from the CSW’s interview of each child. In cases where the index child is under the age of five or non-verbal, the Medical Hub may request that older siblings or companion cases accompany the index child to the Medical Hub, to assist in providing history. In some cases, the index child may be examined first and the other children may not require a full forensic evaluation.

The Medical Hubs will request that DCFS provide all pertinent medical records and case information. If the requested information is not immediately available, the forensic exam will not be delayed in cases where there is an immediate concern for the child’s safety or for the observation of physical evidence. In these cases, however, the forensic examiner may wait to issue written findings to DCFS until the requested records and/or information are received. The Medical Hub will inform the CSW as to what items are missing and are required before the examiner can issue a report.

REFERENCES:

California Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 324.5
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Children and Family Services and Department of Health Services for Countywide Medical Hub Clinics for Children under DCFS Jurisdiction

EFFECTIVE

DATE: February 1, 2012

SUPERSEDES:

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