

Clinical Practice Guidelines

The Children's Medical Center, Dayton (Ohio)

Clinical practice guidelines (CPG's) for child physical abuse and sexual abuse were developed in 1999-2000 by a multidisciplinary committee at The Children's Medical Center, Dayton (Ohio). The committee included representatives from child abuse, corporate education, nursing, pediatric emergency medicine, pediatric radiology, quality resource management, and social work. Input was also obtained from medical records and pediatric hematology.

Both CPG's are designed to be included in the medical record. After meetings with physicians and nurses from the emergency department, a trial period for using the CPG's began in August 2000. At this time our quality resource management department is reviewing records to assess utilization of the CPG's.

The following process indicators are being tracked:

- General physical exam on all patients
- Skeletal survey utilization
- Screening for coagulation disorders
- Social work consultation for all cases
- Rape kit utilization
- Identification of a safety plan for the child before discharge

The following outcome indicators are being tracked:

- Mental health follow-up for patients with in-house psychology referrals
- Patients who return with suspicious injuries within 3 months
- If a sexually transmitted disease (STD) is documented, treatment is provided
- If one STD is diagnosed, evaluation for other STD's is done

We acknowledge as templates used in developing these CPG's the following sources:

American Academy of Pediatrics

Children's Hospital Medical Center of Cincinnati

Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Cleveland

We would welcome anyone's comments or suggestions.

Ralph A. Hicks, M.D.

Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Wright State University School of Medicine

Medical Director, Child Abuse

The Children's Medical Center

One Children's Plaza

Dayton, Ohio 45404

e-mail: ralph.hicks@wright.edu