

I am worried about the assessment

We understand that the assessment may be upsetting and that you may feel anxious or worried. We will keep you informed of what is happening and will treat you with courtesy and sensitivity.

If you do not understand any part of the process and need further explanation then ask the professionals involved who can then provide you with more information.



How can I make a comment about my child's treatment?

The Customer care team of the Health Trust where your baby's examination is done can help in resolving any concerns you may have. They can provide information and advice and will liaise with other staff and departments to help resolve problems and concerns as quickly as possible.

Further information and support

Hampshire Children's Services

Tel: 0300 555 1384

Isle of Wight Children's services

Tel: 0300 300 0117

Southampton Children's services

Tel: 023 8083 3336

Portsmouth Children's services

Tel: 0845 671 0271

Tel: 0300 555 1373 (out of hours)

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

0808 800 5000

www.nspcc.org.uk

Family Rights Group





0808 801 0366 www.frg.org.uk

For a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in



please contact
NHS West Hampshire CCG

☎ 0800 456 1633

-  **Website:** Westhampshireccg.nhs.uk
-  **Facebook:** [West Hampshire CCG](https://www.facebook.com/WestHantsCCG)
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Bruising in young babies



Information for
parents and carers



A bruise or mark has been noticed on your baby. This leaflet has been provided to explain the Local Safeguarding Children Board's bruising protocol that we follow across the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Similar protocols exist in other areas of the country as well.



Is bruising common in babies?

No. Bruising in babies who are not rolling or crawling is unusual. It is very unusual for a baby to get a bruise during everyday activities such as nappy changes, bathing or feeding.

Bruising can be related to a health condition which has not been previously identified.

However, sometimes bruising in babies is due to a deliberate injury and therefore it is important that each baby is fully assessed.

Accidents do occur. You may feel that you are able to explain the reason for your baby having a bruise or mark. However your baby will still need to be carefully assessed. It can take an opinion from a consultant paediatrician (specialist children's doctor) to be able to tell the difference between bruises and other types of mark.

What happens now?

Everyone working with children must follow the bruising protocol when they find a bruise, or a mark which appears to be a bruise, in a non-mobile baby (a baby who is unable to move around on their own).

Sometimes, even when children are moving around by themselves, there can be concern about how a mark or bruise occurred and in these situations a referral should always be made to Children's Services.

1. A referral is made to Children's Services who act as a single point of contact.
2. Your baby's case will be assessed by Children's Services. Part of this assessment involves gathering information from other agencies who may hold information about your family, or who may be working directly with you.

3. A request will be made for an assessment by a paediatrician at your local hospital or community health clinic. This is usually done as soon as possible the same day.

What will the paediatrician do?

The paediatrician will ask you all about your baby. This will include when the bruise was first noticed and whether you know how the bruise may have happened.

The paediatrician will do a full examination which includes undressing your baby. They will ask for your consent as the parent or carer, to perform examinations or other tests. Once the examination has been completed the paediatrician will discuss the outcome of their assessment with you.

There may be a recommendation that further investigations are required such as taking blood from your baby to ensure there are no underlying health conditions.

In some cases, tests such as X-rays or scans may also be requested to enable the paediatrician to fully assess your baby. These tests can take time and may involve staying in hospital so it would be helpful to take some provisions with you just in case. When X-rays are required they will need repeating in about two weeks.

The paediatrician will also speak to Children's Services to let them know the outcome of the assessment. Together the paediatrician and Children's Services will jointly decide whether any further action is needed.