

Nature of concern/referral criteria	Timing of suspected offence	Reason for medical exam	Referral route	PSAS provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure or suspected disclosure of any contact sexual assault/abuse (CSA). OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other reason for concern about possible sexual abuse e.g. unexplained genital or anal injury. 	Recent: 0-7 days ago	Collection of forensic samples Documenting injuries Emergency health needs (contraception/Hep B/HIV prevention) Holistic health needs including counselling	Contact G4S call centre and request acute medical under the West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service - 0800 953 4131 . Call handler will then connect you to on-call paediatrician for case discussion.	24/7 acute service: Same day examination (or next day if more appropriate for child). Acute service or historic clinic (discuss client needs with doctor).
	Non-recent: 7-21 days ago	Documenting injuries - healing injuries may be found up to 3 weeks later Emergency health needs (Hep B) Holistic health needs including counselling	Call handler will then connect you to on-call paediatrician for case discussion.	Acute service or historic clinic (discuss client needs with doctor).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure or suspected disclosure of sexual assault/abuse more than 3 weeks ago. • Child about whom there are strong grounds to suspect CSA (e.g. siblings and any other child living in the same household as a child who has disclosed CSA). • Overt sexualised behaviour - refer to Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool: www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool • Paediatric gynaecology/genital health, where there is concern about possible sexual abuse (e.g. genital or anal warts, confirmed STI in under 13s, suspicious genital or anal abnormality). • Where there is concern about possible sexual abuse, the conjunction of TWO or more of the following concerns will be accepted as meeting referral criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. possible/mild sexualised behaviour 2. other safeguarding concerns 3. secondary enuresis or soiling resistant to treatment 4. selective mutism, food refusal, sleep problems 5. self-harming 6. known or suspected contact with offender/suspected offender. 	Non-recent: more than 3 weeks ago	Holistic health needs including STI screening and counselling Reassurance Evidence of previous injury may be present in some cases	Contact G4S call centre and state you need to arrange a historic medical under the West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service - 0800 953 4131 . Call handler will then take brief details, which will be passed to the paediatric co-ordinator to book an appointment and send the referrer a clinic referral form.	Historic clinic: Choice of venue, dates and examiner.

West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service

Delivering Best Care, Preserving Best Evidence

Referral Criteria for West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service (PSAS)

The PSAS provides a holistic health assessment for children and young people who may have been sexually assaulted.

Victims of recent abuse will usually be seen by the on-call team at one of our four centres across the West Midlands. Where appropriate, the PSAS team aim to be available within 60 minutes of referral. The on-call team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Alongside its urgent response service, the PSAS also operates week-day clinics which offer planned appointments at all four venues.

These provide medical examination and holistic care for children and young people where there is concern about possible sexual abuse, but the concern is not deemed to be within the forensic window (non-recent). The clinic offers a choice of venues, dates, and examiner. We aim to offer an appointment within 10 working days of referral.

Why refer non-recent abuse, and concerns where the child has not disclosed?

If there is any concern about possible sexual abuse, a medical examination should be considered; the PSAS doctors are happy to give telephone advice and be involved in strategy discussion.

The medical examination is done in a child-friendly way and is generally very well tolerated. Most children and young people say they felt reassured by it.

The reasons for medical examination are:

- 1. to ensure the health needs of the child/young person is met** - this includes screening for sexually transmitted infections
- 2. to provide emotional support** - the child/young person referred to the service is offered a package of counselling and emotional support
- 3. to provide reassurance** - the importance to the child/young person of knowing they are physically "normal" should not be underestimated. Even where there are physical findings, the child/young person can be reassured that it has taken a specialist examination to detect them. It is a chance to discuss any fears the child/young person has in relation to their experiences
- 4. to provide evidence** - it is important to understand that the examination can never rule out sexual abuse, as a high percentage of children who have been abused will have normal examinations. However, in some cases, there are examination findings to substantiate the concern; this can significantly contribute to safeguarding decision-making.

Please note this service has a paediatrician on call 24 hours a day. If you are unsure about whether or not to refer a child/young person to the West Midlands Paediatric Assault Service for a medical, please contact: 0800 953 4131 for a case discussion with the on-call paediatrician.

Crisis counselling

Crisis counselling may be offered to all clients who are seen by a paediatrician as part of the service.

General referral criteria - ALL four bullet points must apply:

- child/young person under the age of 18 years OR aged 18-20 with significant learning difficulties AND in full-time education
- resident, looked-after child or victim of offence within catchment (area served by West Mercia, Warwickshire or West Midlands Police)
- referred to children's social care/Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- child/young person must be aware of referral and consent.


One of the following must also apply:


- attendance of a person with parental responsibility
- a court order with directive to examine in place
- the child/young person is likely to be Gillick competent.



West Mercia
Rape & Sexual Abuse
Support Centre



The Royal Wolverhampton 
NHS Trust

Worcestershire Health and Care 
NHS Trust

Birmingham Community Healthcare 
NHS Foundation Trust

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership 
NHS Trust