

Protocol 10-5

SECTION: Pediatric Trauma Patient Care

PROTOCOL TITLE: General – Neglect or Abuse Suspected

REVISED: 06/2017

OVERVIEW:

Child r abuse, which includes sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect, is often overlooked and under-reported. It is the ethical and legal responsibility to notify the receiving hospital of suspicions of child abuse as it may prevent serious injury and death. Proof of abuse is not needed to make the report to hospital, CPS, or social services. Patterns of abuse can reflect any form of physical and/or mental trauma, but are usually characterized by unexplained or poorly explained injuries of different ages and delay in seeking medical care. There may be sometimes be no external signs of injuries. Observation, transport, and reporting are the key responsibilities of the pre-hospital provider.

HPI	Signs and Symptoms	Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time of injury • Mechanism: blunt vs penetrating • Loss of consciousness • Bleeding • Past medical history • Medications • Evidence of multi-system trauma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain, swelling, bleeding • Altered mental status, unconsciousness • Respiratory distress, failure • Dehydration • Fractures • Decubitus • Major traumatic mechanism of injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skull fracture • Brain injury (concussion, contusion, hemorrhage, or laceration) • Epidural hematoma • Subdural hematoma • Subarachnoid hemorrhage • Spinal injury

	EMR	EMT	A	I	P
1. Perform general patient management.	•	•	•	•	•
2. Support life-threatening problems; C-spine precautions.	•	•	•	•	•
3. Administer oxygen, to maintain SPO_2 94 - 99%. Support respirations as necessary with a BVM.	•	•	•	•	•
4. Observe and record objectively the surroundings and conditions of the scene and patient.	•	•	•	•	•
5. Refer to the appropriate <i>Medical or Trauma Patient Care protocol</i> for obvious injuries / illnesses.	•	•	•	•	•
6. UNDER VIRGINIA LAW, EMS PROVIDERS ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE. (VA code 63.2-1509) Report suspicions to the receiving facility emergency department attending physician on arrival, or report suspicions immediately to Child Protective Services. CPS Hotline: 800-552-7096.	•	•	•	•	•
7. Transport as soon as possible.		•	•	•	•

CHILD ABUSE

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