

Regional Referral Pathway for Child Sexual Abuse / Assault Forensic Medical Assessment

The aim of a medical assessment is to meet the **medical/sexual health and forensic needs** of the child. If there are concerns about sexual abuse, sending patients to the Emergency Department (A&E dept) or GP is **never** appropriate **unless they are medically unwell**. See flow chart below for appropriate service.

Patient Information Video Ctrl + click: [PFN Charlie Video](#)

In paediatric services:

- Patients are always seen by a female doctor.
- They are very rarely seen in the middle of the night as this is not in their best interests (FFLM & RCPCH guidance).
- Pre-pubertal children **never** have an invasive examination.
- The children & carers are **always** able to stop the assessment at any time. The child is distracted in an age-appropriate way during the process, which is conducted in an unhurried, sensitive manner.
- Young people may be seen up to 18 years old if they:
 - Have learning disabilities.
 - Are fostered (Children in Care / Looked After) **and** have special needs.
- Young people 16 years or older, & not in the categories above, are seen by **Adult SARC** service.

