



## Information Sharing via Medical Reports following section 47 (Safeguarding) Medical Examination of Children and Young People in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County

This guidance applies to the three statutory safeguarding partners:

- The Local Authority (Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire)
- Health (Mainly Sherwood Forest Hospitals, Nottingham University Hospitals, EMCYPSAS)
- Nottinghamshire

This guidance should be read along with the [Interagency Safeguarding Children Procedures](#) in particular the chapter regarding [Information Sharing](#) which explains that information sharing between the safeguarding partnerships is essential in order to effectively carry out the statutory duty to safeguard children and young people (CYP) from harm. Information sharing should always be necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure. Unnecessary delay can expose a CYP to further risk, directly or indirectly, and it is only by having access to all the relevant information from all sources that a true picture can emerge. Whilst it is correct to be aware of and to consider the rights of each and every involved party and their confidentiality in line with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, this and other legal directives such as the Human Rights Act do not mean that information cannot be shared when necessary.

### Section 47 and the Medical Examination of Children and Young People

If information is received that indicates a child or young person is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, a Strategy Discussion Meeting (minimum Social Care, Police, and Health) should be held regarding:

- 1) If threshold is met to initiate enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989
- 2) Whether this will be single agency (social care) or joint agency (police and social care)
- 3) Contacting the relevant paediatric safeguarding team to discuss if a formal medical examination is required and the arrangements for this.

Medical examination may be performed by the local paediatric services, or for child sexual assault by East Midlands Children and Young Peoples Sexual Assault Centre (EMCYPSAS) based at Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham.

### Documentation of consent

Consent for examination should include information about who may receive copies of reports. The standard consent used at both Sherwood Forest and NUH is presented below, and similar is used at EMCYPSAS. It is explicit about the possibility of the report being shared with police, social services, paediatric services and the GP.

I understand that there are concerns about my child's safety or well-being (child protection concerns) and that a medical examination by a children's doctor is required as part of an assessment into these concerns. I understand that this examination is to ensure that the child receives any medical treatment they may require for pain or injury but also to document carefully any marks / bruises / injuries / findings of concern in order for the doctor to consider how they may have been caused.

It has been explained that this **may** include some or all the following (delete if not applicable)

- a) A full medical **history** and complete **examination**;
- b) Taking of **notes, photographs/videos/digital images** for recording and evidential purposes (including second opinions from medical experts and peer review);
- c) **Investigations** if required which may include x-rays, blood tests, scans, or others\*;
- d) I understand and agree that the doctor/nurse may provide a **statement/report** for the police, social services, paediatric services and the GP;
- e) I understand and agree that a **copy of the medical notes** may be given to professionals involved in the case (e.g. police / lawyers) and may be used in a court;
- f) *(Optional)* I agree to the use of anonymized photographs/videos/digital images/medical notes for **teaching, audit and research**;
- g) I have been advised that I may **withdraw my consent** at any time.

## Where can the report be shared?

Report can be shared with:	Decision at Strategy Meeting AT THE TIME of the Medical Examination	
	Section 47 Single Agency	Section 47 Joint Agency
GP (for the CYP)	Yes	Yes
CYP's own Paediatrician (if involved)	Yes	Yes
Social Care (for the involved locality)	Yes	Yes
Police (investigating force)	Data Protection Office	Yes
<i>If, for example, an investigation was initially single agency but later information led to Police seeking to prosecute, copies of the report should be requested via the Data Protection Office as standard.</i>		
Other agency (including education)	Data Protection Office	Data Protection Office
Family / CYP themselves	Data Protection Office	Data Protection Office
Court (as the report may need redacting or updating before it can be used in open court)	Contact author via NHS trust	Contact author via NHS trust
<b>Must only come via Data Protection Office (even if Police or Social Care are the requesting agency)</b>		
<b>Medical Examination record/report NOT carried out under section 47 enquiries</b> (e.g. seen in Emergency Department and treated prior to safeguarding concerns emerging or where no Strategy Meeting was held) <b>Any original notes</b> (including handwritten 'NAI' proforma, clinic or inpatient notes, electronic filenotes and documentation of phone consultations) <b>Any images or videos</b> (including X-rays, patient photography, colposcopy videos) <b>Formal statements</b> for court or solicitors		

## Designated Doctors

<b>Sherwood Forest Hospitals</b>	<a href="mailto:sfh-tr.sar@nhs.net">sfh-tr.sar@nhs.net</a>
<b>Nottingham University Hospitals (including EMCYPSAS)</b>	<a href="mailto:nuhnt.dataprotectionadminoffice@nhs.net">nuhnt.dataprotectionadminoffice@nhs.net</a>
<b>Doncaster and Bassetlaw</b>	<a href="mailto:dbth.casenoterelease@nhs.net">dbth.casenoterelease@nhs.net</a>

## RELEVANT GUIDANCE

- **Nottinghamshire Information Sharing Protocol;**
- **Child Protection - Information Sharing Project:** The Child Protection - Information Sharing project (CP-IS) helps health and social care staff to share information securely to better protect society's most vulnerable children;
- **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements**
- **Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners;**
- **2013 Protocol and Good Practice Model. Disclosure of information in cases of alleged child abuse and linked criminal and care directions hearings.**