CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE
CLINICAL PATHWAY
CLINIC INITIAL WORKUP

Child present with physical abuse (emergent):
• If child is not stable, refer to the Emergency Department
• Obtain H&P (see Clinical Assessment)

Is there concern for abuse or an injury not consistent with history?

• Contact social work, law enforcement & Child Protective Services (CPS)
• Social work can assist with contacting law enforcement and CPS report
• Discuss suspected abuse reporting requirements with family

Yes

• If bleeding disorder is suspected, obtain appropriate labs

No

Is the patient medically unstable, condition unable to be treated in clinic, and/or <2 years of age?

Yes

Refer to Emergency Department
*Do not have to wait for law enforcement to arrive

*Photograph injuries for burns, bites, or as clinically indicated (refer to Policy #CAT-003)

No

Based on clinical exam, is ED warranted?

Yes

*In discussion with law enforcement and/or social worker, is it safe to discharge patient?

No

Follow up instructions with caregiver(s)
Follow up appointment with PCP

Does the patient need evaluation for bleeding disorder?

*Click for criteria information
*Evaluation content in order set

Yes

No

Does the patient need evaluation for bleeding disorder?

Yes

No

Photograph injuries for burns, bites, or as clinically indicated (refer to Policy #CAT-003)

Disclaimer: Pathways are intended as a guide for practitioners and do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment nor serve as a standard of medical care. These pathways should be adapted by medical providers, when indicated, based on their professional judgement and taking into account individual patient and family circumstances.

ChildrensNebraska.org/Pathways
Updated 03/2023