CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE
CLINICAL PATHWAY
URGENT CARE WORKUP

Child present with physical abuse concerns:
• 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?

Yes
• 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

No
Continue to care & follow-up as needed

Is the patient medically unstable and/or <2 years of age?

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

No

Does patient have a head injury?

Yes

No

Does patient have abdominal injury?

Yes

No

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

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

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

No
Discuss disposition options with law enforcement, social work, and CAT as needed

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
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