

# Dealing with suspected child abuse in patients examined within Community Optometric Practice

Following an excellent presentation at the Three Counties Optometric Society meeting in September 2010 by **Dr Imelda Bennett** (Consultant Paediatrician, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children, Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board), it was felt that the following information would be of benefit should the situation ever arise that you in the course of an examination become suspicious that a child might be being subjected to abuse. Clearly these issues are very sensitive and need to be managed with great care. It is recommended that you take advice before any action is initiated and to document all observations, decisions and actions.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Discuss any concern or suspicion you might have with a professional who has responsibility for the child. You can contact this person through

a) NHS Glos Care Services Named Nurse	01242 247984
b) NHS Glos Care Services Named Doctor and/or	01242 247984
c) Community Paediatrician	08454 225705

Following advice if appropriate -

- Refer to Children and Young People's Directorate Childrens Help-desk 01452 426565

## Additional Information

- Further advice can be obtained from the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board web-site: [www.gscb.org.uk](http://www.gscb.org.uk)

## The Role of the Community Paediatrician

A Community Paediatrician is available 9am-5pm Monday to Friday for child protection advice and medical input in child protection cases

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Gloucester                                                | 08454 225707 |
| • Cheltenham                                                | 08454 223869 |
| • GRH Switchboard                                           | 08454 222222 |
| • 5pm-9am and weekends Paediatrician 'on call' based at GRH | 08454 222222 |