

Patient / Caregiver Information for Child Sexual Abuse Clinic

Child Health / Child Protection Clinic

TE WAONUI
CHILD HEALTH SERVICE

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand



You have an appointment with a children's doctor (Paediatrician) about the disclosed or suspected sexual abuse concerns. The appointment may take up to 2 hours.

Location

Children's Clinics on Level 2 in Te Wao Nui Children's Hospital, at Wellington Regional Hospital.

Please allow plenty of time for parking. There is an underground hospital car park and public parking around Te Wao Nui. Parking charges apply. Please discuss with the Clinic Nurse if you have difficulty with getting to your appointment.

What will happen at the appointment?

- During the appointment you will be able to speak freely with the Paediatrician & Clinic Nurse. The nurse, or a support person, can wait with your child in another room close by, while you talk separately with the Paediatrician.
- A general health check (such as listening to the heart & lungs)
- Checking if there are any behavioural changes or issues, and give you advice to manage these.
- A decision if any tests or swabs are needed.
- We can help put you in touch with community services that offer support following sexual abuse. ACC may fund counselling sessions for you, and we can submit a claim if required.

Please discuss with the Clinic Nurse before the appointment any spiritual, cultural, or other needs which are important for you on the day of your appointment. We will try our best to accommodate these.

What is a genital examination?

It will be discussed if a genital (private area) examination (exam) is needed, for which we need your written consent. The exam is not always necessary. A caregiver or support person can be present in the room during all exams.

A genital exam for children mainly involves looking at the area, and does not include an internal. A speculum is never used. Children may wish to stay on their caregivers' lap while being examined. The anal (bottom) area will also be checked. For boys their penis & testes (balls) will be checked.

Many incidents of sexual abuse don't cause any injuries that can be seen at the time of exam-often the medical exam is normal. This does not mean that the abuse did not happen.

Following the appointment

The Paediatrician will write a report following the assessment. This will be sent to the referrer, and with your permission, to the GP. If necessary you may have a follow-up appointment with the Paediatrician.

A follow-up phone call by the Clinic Nurse will be offered, and any test results will also be given to you at this time. This will occur approximately 2 weeks after your first appointment.

Agencies that may be involved

Health - the Paediatrician will check physical and mental health.

NZ Police - to see if a crime has been committed and if charges should be laid.

OTMC (Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children) - to confirm the child is currently living in a safe place, and to help support you.

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Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns before the appointment, please contact the Clinic Nurse.

Contact us

Department: Te Wao Nui Child Health
Services – Child Protection Clinic

Phone: (04) 385 5999 ext 86513

Hours: 08:00 – 16:00, Monday to Friday

www.ccdhb.org.nz