

## Regional Referral Pathway for Child Sexual Abuse / Assault Forensic Medical Assessment

The aim of a medical assessment is to meet the **medical/sexual health and forensic needs** of the child/young person. If there are concerns about sexual abuse, sending patients to the Emergency Department (A&E dept) or GP is **never** appropriate **unless they are medically unwell**. See flow chart below for appropriate service.

Patient Information Video Ctrl + click: [PFN Charlie Video](#)

Patient and User information: <https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/services/great-north-childrens-hospital/children-and-young-peoples-clinic/>

### In paediatric services:

- Patients are always seen by a female doctor.
- They are rarely seen in the middle of the night as this is not in their best interests (FFLM RCPCH guidance).
- Pre-pubertal children **never** have an invasive examination.
- The children/ young people & carers are **always** able to stop the assessment at any time & are distracted during the process, which is conducted in an unhurried, sensitive manner.
- Young people may be seen up to 18 years old if they:
  - Have learning disabilities.
  - Are fostered (Children in Care / Looked After) **and** have special needs.
- Young people 16 years or older, & not in the categories above, are seen by **Adult SARC** service.

**Concerns that child /young person (CYP) has been sexually abused/ assaulted.**

