

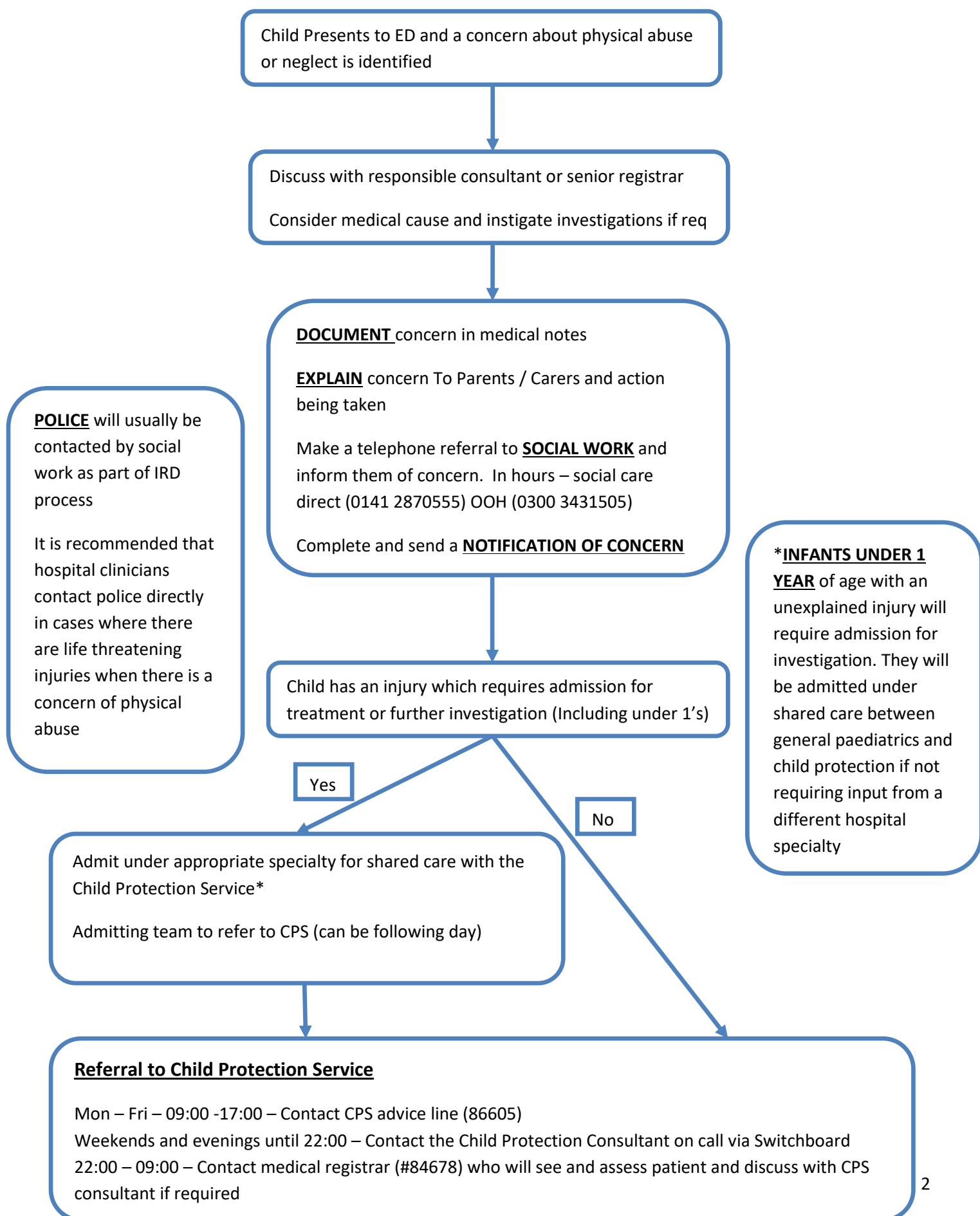


## **NHSGGC PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE**

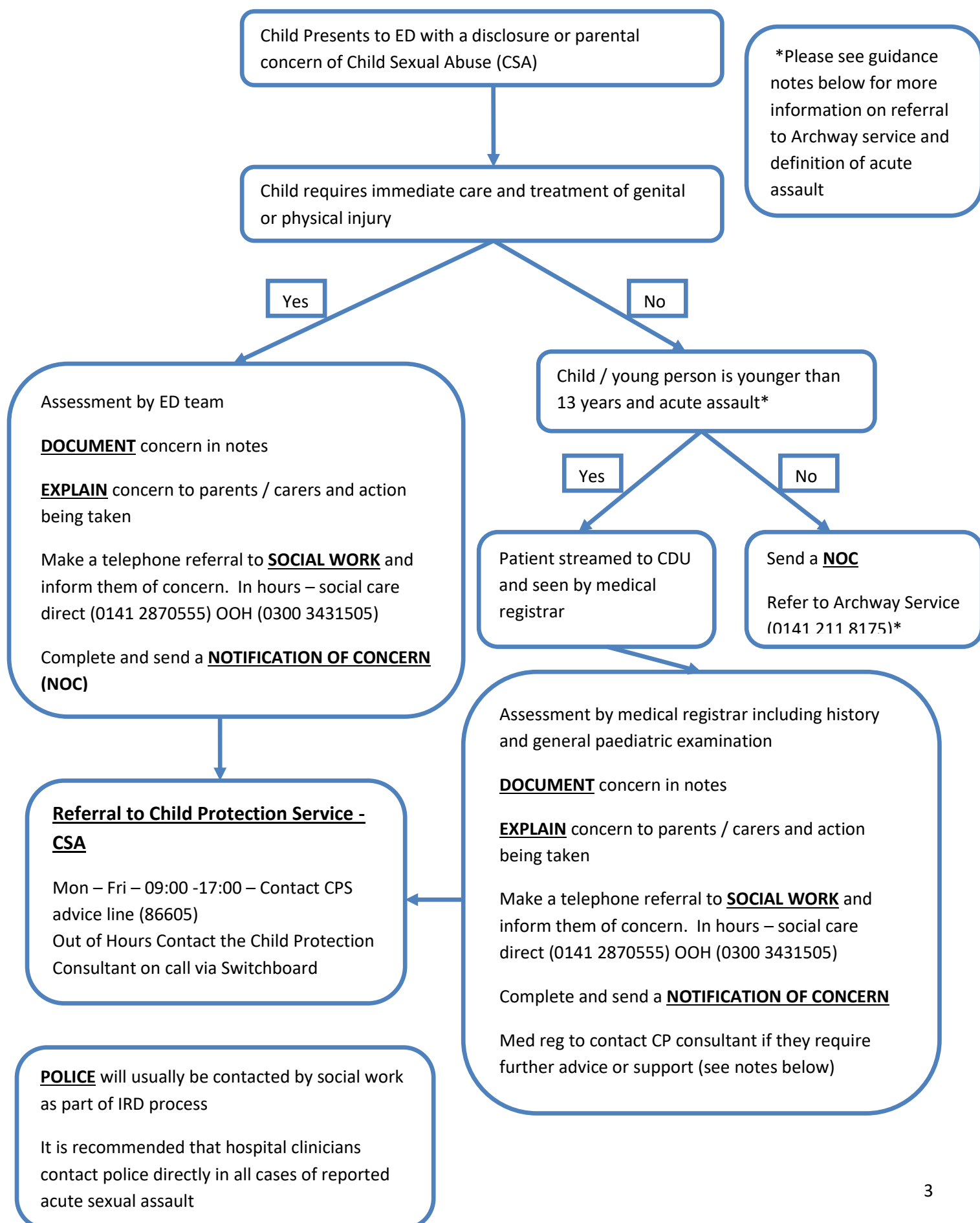
### **‘Pathways for Children Presenting to the Emergency Department at the Royal Hospital for Children when there is a concern of Abuse or Neglect’**

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## Pathway of care for children presenting to the Emergency Department at RHC when there is a concern of Physical Abuse or Neglect



## Pathway of care for children presenting to the Emergency Department at RHC when there is a concern of Sexual Abuse



## **Guidance Notes for Child Protection Pathways**

If the CPS receives a referral for a child and it is felt this child requires acute assessment of an injury by the emergency department then the child protection consultant will contact the emergency department consultant directly (or senior registrar between midnight and 08:00). ED Majors Consultant: 0141 452 4059.

In these cases the Child Protection service will inform social work or police that a formal child protection opinion will not be provided by the emergency department. CPS will arrange a time and location for a planned medical assessment and opinion.

In cases where social work or police attend the emergency department with children with no prior discussion with the CPS; Children will be assessed by the emergency department to ensure they do not have an injury which requires treatment. If these children do not require admission to the hospital, then police and / or social work will be instructed to contact the child protection service for a planned medical assessment (as detailed above).

## **Considering a Medical Cause**

It is important that consideration is given to a medical cause for any presentation and that medical investigations are instigated at presentation if required. Child maltreatment should also be considered within differential diagnosis. Where a medical cause has not been excluded, but there is a concern of maltreatment referral to social work should not be delayed pending the results of investigations.

## **Infants Under 1 Year**

Infants under one year of age with injuries suspicious of physical abuse or neglect require admission for investigation. Infants with an unexplained injury (e.g. unexplained bruise, minor head injury) who do not require input from another specialty will be admitted under the care of general paediatrics. The general paediatric registrar (84678) should be contacted at the time of admission and informed of admission under shared care. Between the hours of 09:00 and 22:00 the child protection service should be contacted at referral to discuss these patients as described above. The child protection consultant will not usually attend acutely during evenings and will instead usually plan to see the child the following day.

The medical paediatric registrar is responsible for reviewing the child as they would any other admission to the hospital, any injuries found on presentation should be clearly documented in the medical notes. For further information on maltreatment of infants please see: - ([CLICK HERE FOR UNDER 1'S POLICY](#))

## **Social Work Referrals**

It is the responsibility of the clinician who first assesses the child and has noted a concern of abuse or neglect to raise a formal notification of concern with social work. When there is a high suspicion of physical or sexual abuse social work should be contacted by telephone at point of admission. The social work contact numbers for Glasgow City children are detailed above. Children who live outside of Glasgow City will require contact with local social work teams. Please refer to the NHS GG&C NOC guideline for further information on how to complete a notification of concern and for social work contact details. ([CLICK HERE FOR NOC GUIDANCE](#)).

## **Acute Sexual Assault**

Children and young people who are the victims of acute sexual assault (within the previous 7 days) may require forensic examination. This examination forms a small part of a wider multi agency investigation and it is essential that social work are contacted at the point of referral. Indications for forensic examination would include: - A clear disclosure by child or young person of sexual assault, an injury identified consistent with acute sexual assault or witnessed sexual assault. These children and young people (<13 years) should be discussed with the child protection service (consultant if out of hours). Often it will be most appropriate for the child or young person to be discharged home (or into safe care arrangement) whilst a forensic examination is considered and / or coordinated.

Young people of 13 years and over who are victims of acute sexual assault are not routinely examined by the child protection service. These young people are usually assessed by the Archway sexual assault referral centre and should be referred directly to this service. Out of hours the Archway health referral telephone line may not be staffed and in these instances the police health hub (0141 532 5026) should be contacted (as this service may be staffed by forensic medical examiners). More information on the Archway service is available here: - [Archway Glasgow - Support for those who have been raped or sexually assaulted | Archway Glasgow](#)

Children with no clear evidence of acute sexual assault (including those with parental concern of possible CSA) should be assessed by a senior doctor, who will ensure an NOC is raised with social work. These children will not require forensic examination and instead require a multi agency investigation to be initiated.

## **Historical Sexual Assault (>7days)**

Children and young people who disclose historic sexual assault do not require an acute forensic examination. These patients should be seen and assessed to ensure that no immediate treatment or investigation is required. The assessing doctor is then responsible for raising a notification of concern with social work and providing the patient (and family if appropriate) with advice on contacting police.

## **CP Advice and Support**

These pathways are designed for use with patients attending the Emergency Department at RHC. If you have identified a child protection concern and despite these pathways are still unsure on what you should do, then please contact the Child Protection Service (86605) or the CP Consultant on call if out of hours.

If you are unsure whether there is a child protection concern and are not planning on raising a notification of concern with social work, you should firstly discuss with the responsible consultant.