

### Types of Pediatric Patients Seen at the CARE Clinic:

- Pediatric = Birth-18 years old
- Physical abuse/assault
- Sexual abuse/assault (SA)
  - Sex trafficking
  - Drug-facilitated sexual assault
- Generalized neglect
- Medical neglect
- Nutritional neglect
- Psychological abuse
- Health Tracks/Foster Care Exams

### How to Have a Child/Adolescent Seen at the CARE Clinic:

- Call the CARE Clinic at 701-234-4585
  - Health Tracks/Foster Care Exam? Option 3
    - Provide what county has custody, who case manager is, and email address to send intake forms
    - Intake forms and custody paperwork to be sent to the CARE Clinic within 48 hours of scheduling the appointment
  - All other medical appointments or questions? Option 2 (Nurse Line)
    - Skip the calling tree and call the CARE Clinic Nurse Line directly at 701-234-4515
  - Fax 701-234-4584
- Request a medical referral at the Red River Children's Advocacy Center (RRCAC) following the forensic interview
  - If in timeframe for acute evidence collection, best to contact CARE Clinic directly

### Does a child have to be seen at the RRCAC to refer to CARE Clinic?

- NO
  - Best practice is to use the Child Advocacy Model but we know that not all kids are able to be interviewed
    - Children less than 3 years old
    - Developmental Delays
  - Call CARE Clinic Nurse Line and nursing will take information/triage referral and get back to you

### Can I consult the CARE Clinic after the fact for physical abuse and all the suspected injuries are healed?

- Best practice is to consult/refer CARE Clinic as soon as possible
  - Some medical recommendations can only be done if in a specific time frame of injury
  - CARE Clinic can provide a better opinion on an injury if it can be evaluated in person and not just by photos/chart review

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### SANE Exam Myths:

1. Myth: The CARE Clinic is a Children’s Advocacy Center, Child Protection Services, and/or Law Enforcement
  - a. Truth = The CARE Clinic provides medical care to children who have experienced abuse but is not part of the investigative team.
2. A child who displays sexualized behaviors has been sexually abused.
  - a. Some sexualized behaviors are developmentally appropriate for children. While some children may display problematic sexualized behaviors, that does not mean that the child has been sexually abused.
3. A child who has incontinence issues is doing so because they are being sexually abused.
  - a. Incontinence of urine or stool is non-specific for sexual abuse as behavior regression can be seen with other stressors and/or medical causes.
4. A child complaining of genital pain/itching means they have been sexually assaulted.
  - a. Genital pain, itching, and redness (without any disclosure of sexual abuse) are all non-specific for sexual abuse and should be evaluated for other medical causes.
5. The hymen will be open/broken/smaller/have a bigger opening if there has been vaginal penetration.
  - a. The hymen is a collar-like piece of tissue at the entrance of the vagina which is expected to be open and considered normal female anatomy.
6. A SANE exam will prove that sexual assault/abuse has happened.
  - a. The only things that can be medically diagnostic of sexual contact/abuse is pregnancy, semen collected off of a body during forensic evidence collection, and sexually transmitted infections in pre-pubertal children.
7. Sexual assault/abuse always causes injuries.
  - a. It is “normal to be normal” after sexual assault and almost all exams will have no physical finding. An individual’s disclosure is the most important piece of evidence.
8. SANEs complete forensic interviews.
  - a. SANEs obtain medical history to guide the medical examination and evidence collection. This is not done in the presence of law enforcement.
9. Crime lab did not find any forensics on the collected “rape kit” therefore the disclosure of sexual abuse/assault is false.
  - a. Biological evidence degrades over time. Degradation of biological evidence occurs at various times based off of the deposited location. Some abusive sexual contacts are not expected to leave any biological evidence behind.