

# Forensic medical exam

## For parents and caregivers: What to expect



### Preparing for the appointment

- Arrive 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork to ensure the provider has all necessary information.
- Bring the child's insurance card (caregiver must have their ID). Based on the information provided in the referral, certain people cannot accompany the child to the appointment. A team member can answer questions regarding who can bring the child to our clinic.
- A team member will talk with the caregiver about the appointment. The child life specialist will also be present if needed to provide support and answer questions in a way the child will understand.

### About the forensic exam

- The medical exam is an important part of the investigative process.
- Our medical providers are specifically trained to identify and document current or past injuries.
- The provider will do a head-to-toe exam of the child and evaluate his or her overall health, much like a pediatric well-child visit.
- It is also important to test for certain infections, answer your and the child's health questions, and ensure that follow-up care is given.

### Common questions

#### *Will I talk to the medical provider?*

Yes. A provider will talk with you and answer all questions you may have about the child's health and provide referrals for support/ resources as needed.

#### *What are the next steps?*

Once the exam is complete, the provider will send her report to the agency or medical provider that referred your case to our office.

#### *If the medical exam is normal, does that mean nothing happened?*

No. Many exams don't find signs of injury. Some types of abuse don't leave any scars that can be seen on exam.