

*Your next appointment(s)
will be:*



Your Child's Visit



Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Program

Your Child's Visit



Don't blame your child for what has happened.

It is important that you find support to assist you through this difficult time.

Do not ignore your other children. They also need your love and support.

Avoid contact with the person suspected of abusing your child. Call the police if any court orders are violated.

Respect your child's privacy. Do not discuss the case with the person suspected of the abuse, other victims, family members, etc.

Contact the Brantford General with questions or concerns. Let the Case Coordinator, police, CAS worker, or child's therapist know if your child has behaviours that worry you. These could include changes in appetite, changes in sleeping patterns, depression, fear, withdrawal, or acting out at home or at school.

Follow up with appointments for medical care, mental health services, and interviews. These services are important to help your child.

You can help us and your child by following these suggestions:

Stay Calm: Your child needs to feel your strength and sense of security. Let him or her know that what happened isn't his or her fault. If your child sees you upset or angry, he or she may think you are angry at him/her.

Believe your child: Support your child's decision to tell. Assure your child that you will protect him or her.

Return to your normal family routines: This includes doing chores and using appropriate discipline.

Keep a journal: Write down what your child says and document any different behaviour. Include dates and times.

Do not ask your child questions about what happened or about the investigation.

Your child's Medical examination

Your child has been referred to the Brantford General for a medical exam for possible sexual abuse.

The information in this booklet is to help you and your child prepare for the exam.



What is the exam for?

If there is a concern that a child has been sexually abused, an appointment with a doctor is recommended.

The visit with a doctor may identify:

- Any medical conditions that must be treated.
- Any evidence that may need to be collected.

What should I tell my child?

We recommend that you tell your child that he or she will see a doctor. Do not stress that the exam is related to possible abuse as this may cause further upset.

Your child may be watching you. If you seem nervous, he or she may get nervous.

The doctor may need to do a blood test. Please do not tell your child there will be “no shots”. If you did tell your child this, let the staff know.

Will the exam be upsetting to my child?

Our staff at the Brantford General are experienced in working with children, even under these difficult circumstances.

The exam will not be forced on your child. In most cases, you as the child's parent or caregiver, will be in the exam room. It is helpful if you support your child and answer any questions or address any concerns he or she may have.



Will the exam prove abuse?

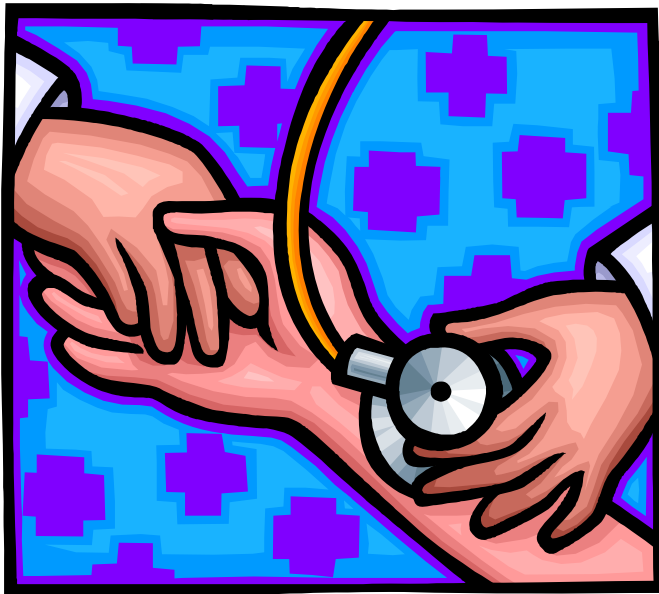
Most of the time, the medical exam does not prove whether or not abuse happened. The exam makes sure that if your child has injuries or other medical conditions, that these conditions are treated.

Many forms of abuse do not result in medical evidence. Sometimes, healing has occurred. Sometime there were no injuries. In some cases, findings support abuse but do not prove abuse.

The most important reason for this visit is to make sure your child is physically well. It is important to remember that an exam with a "normal" result does not mean that abuse did not occur.

Who will do the exam?

A doctor and a specially-trained nurse will do the medical exam of your child.



What will the exam include?

Your child will receive a complete medical exam.

The doctor may also use a "colposcope." The colposcope is similar to a digital camera that provides light and magnification, helping the doctor to better examine your child. The colposcope does not touch your child's body.

The doctor or nurse may also determine that other tests, including blood tests, are needed to provide the best care to your child.