

Northern Health Centre



Where to find us

Northern Health Centre
1st floor
580 Holloway Road
London
N7 6LB

Tel: 020 3316 1885

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a question, compliment, comment or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or

whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3081.

We will try our best to meet your needs.

The reception and waiting area



The clinic room where you meet doctor



Whittington Health
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF
Phone: 020 7272 3070

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Child protection: the medical assessment



A parent and child's guide



Introduction

This leaflet is intended to help parents and children understand what a medical assessment is, where it takes place, who you will see and what you can expect.

We understand that it is a difficult time for both parents and children, so read the leaflet carefully and if you can it is good to talk to your child beforehand about what might happen.

What is a medical assessment?

A children's doctor (paediatrician) has been asked to check your child for any signs of harm.

This involves the doctor talking to you and your child, and examining your child to look for any signs of harm.

Why does my child need a medical assessment?

When social services receive a report that a child may be harmed, they have a legal duty to look into this to make sure that no cases of abuse are missed.

This involves a doctor checking for any signs of harm. Remember that the doctor is there to help you and your child.

Who will be there?

Your child will be seen by a paediatrician. There may be other people there as well to help with the assessment and all of the people involved are well trained and have lots of experience with children. All the people involved will introduce themselves to you at the beginning.

You may stay with your child at all times if you wish, but if you want to talk to the doctor alone then that is also possible. Sometimes with older children we will ask you if you are happy that we speak with them by themselves.

Your social worker may or may not be there as well.

What will happen at the assessment?

You may have to wait in our reception area for a short while, but the doctor will then call you into the appointment room.

For younger children we have lots of toys for them to play with.

The doctor will ask you and your child questions about what has happened so far before they check your child for any signs of harm.

If you have any questions, you can ask the doctor at the time.

The doctor may want to talk to you or your child alone, but that is up to you.

Where does the assessment take place?

We see children in our clinic rooms on the 1st floor at the Northern Health Centre on Holloway Road. This is the hub of children services in Islington.

When you arrive in the reception area you will meet the receptionist. If you introduce yourself to the receptionist they will let the doctor know that you have arrived.

What can I bring to the appointment?

- your child's medical records
- your child's favourite toys or books
- a snack or drink for your child
- a list of any concerns or questions you have

What happens afterwards?

At the end of the assessment the doctor will explain what will happen next to you and your social worker.

You will receive a letter in the mail detailing the points discussed as well.