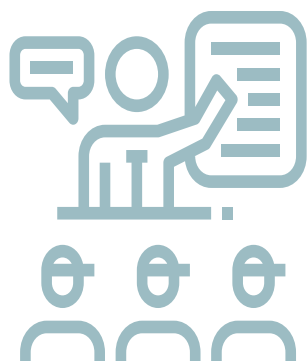


# Medical Evaluations in Children's Advocacy Centers



Accreditation Standard: Specialized Medical Evaluation and Treatment Services Are Available To All CAC Clients As Part Of The Multidisciplinary Team Response.



Initial Training Standards - one or more must be met:

Child Abuse Pediatrics Sub-board eligibility or certification, or

Physicians, Advance Practice Nurses, and Physicians Assistants must have a minimum of 16 hours formal didactic training in the medical evaluation of child sexual abuse, or

A SANE without advanced practitioner training must have a minimum of 40 hours of coursework specific to medical evaluation of child abuse plus a competency based clinical preceptorship with an experienced provider in a clinical setting where the SANE can demonstrate competency in performing exams.

Ongoing education: 8 contact hours in child abuse every two years.

## Check List

- ✓ Educate team members, staff, child, and caregiver about the nature and purpose of the exam
- ✓ Outline the circumstances for a medical evaluation and the process in your protocols
- ✓ Share findings with team members
- ✓ Document medical findings by written and photo documentation
- ✓ Develop a linkage agreement with any off-site providers



50% of all exams deemed abnormal or diagnostic of trauma must be reviewed by an advanced medical consultant

## Resources:

- National Children's Alliance: [nca-online.org](http://nca-online.org)
- International Association of Forensic Nursing: [forensicnurses.org](http://forensicnurses.org)
- Online training and review: [www.mrcac.org/medical-academy/mycasereviewMedicalPreceptorshipTraining](http://www.mrcac.org/medical-academy/mycasereviewMedicalPreceptorshipTraining)
- University of Washington Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress: <https://depts.washington.edu/hcsats/training.html>

## Why Medical Evaluations Matter

Team members are sometimes reluctant to refer children for medical evaluations because they feel it will be traumatic or that there is no investigative value.

When done correctly, medical evaluations are not traumatic to the child.

In addition to being part of an investigation, medical evaluations can:

Provide reassurance to the child and family that can help with their emotional healing.

Reveal other medical problems that need to be addressed.

Differentiate medical findings that indicate abuse from those that may be related to other medical conditions.

Identify, document, diagnose and address medical conditions related to abuse

Specialized medical evaluations are to be available at the CAC or off-site and must be available and accessible to all CAC clients regardless of ability to pay.

