Appendix 7. Care Algorithm

The algorithm, adapted in part from Day and Pierce-Weeks (2013), illustrates the general flow of and procedures involved in medical forensic care in prepubescent child sexual abuse cases. However, flow and procedures are subject to jurisdictional and agency/facility policies.

Sexual Abuse <72 hours?
Unknown time frame? Chance of biological or trace evidence?

Sexual Abuse >72 hours?

Contact victim advocate from community based sexual assault program, child advocacy center, or other entity to offer child and caregiver support

Acute Exam with Collection of Forensic Samples
- Consent
- Mandatory report
- Medical history
- Physical and anogenital examination
- Injury/disease treatment
- Documentation
- Collection of forensic samples
- Consider testing for STDs, including HIV as appropriate
- Offer HIV nPeP when appropriate
- Discharge and follow-up care planning: medical, safety, counseling, and support

Acute Exam >72 hours if-
- Current symptoms of injury (pain, bleeding, STD)
- History of abduction
- Need for evaluation for possible suicidal or homicidal ideation
- Child or caregiver has fears and pressing concerns that acute exam can address
- Risk of imminent danger to child and/or not clear where the child will be residing in near future
- Concern that family will not return child for nonacute exam on another day

Nonacute Exam
- Consent
- Mandatory report
- Medical history
- Physical and anogenital examination
- Injury/disease treatment
- Documentation
- Consider testing for STDs, including HIV as appropriate
- Discharge and follow-up care planning: medical, safety, counseling, and support

All Patients
- Trained pediatric examiner provides above medical forensic care
- Immediate and appropriate referral to mental health services for suicidal/homicidal ideation
- Access to victim advocacy services during/after exam, if available
- Psychosocial counseling referrals
- Other community resource linkages

Taken from the National Protocol for Sexual Abuse Medical Forensic Examinations - Pediatric. For the full Pediatric SAFE Protocol, see www.KIDSta.org.

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