

We understand this is a very difficult time and we are committed to providing the best care and treatment for you and your child. This includes a thorough medical exam at the Care Center at Edward Hospital. If you have questions after reviewing the information in this brochure, we encourage you to ask the professionals at Edward Hospital.

EDWARD

HOSPITAL & HEALTH SERVICES

CARE CENTER

801 S. Washington Street
Naperville, Illinois 60540

630/527-3288

Appointment Date: _____

Appointment Time: _____

Location: _____

Notes: _____



WILL COUNTY
Children's
ADVOCACY CENTER

HOPE, HEALING, AND JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN.

**Medical
Evaluation**

Q&A

EDWARD

HOSPITAL & HEALTH SERVICES

CARE CENTER

A medical evaluation is offered to any child who has allegations or concerns of abuse. The evaluation is painless and utilizes up-to-date equipment and specialized techniques tailored to your child's age and development.

Why Should My Child Have An Exam?

The purpose of the medical evaluation is to ensure the health and well-being of the child. The evaluation may also:

- Diagnose and treat medical conditions related to the abuse
- Reassure the child that everything is okay with their body
- Document any significant physical and forensic findings

Specialized child sensitive medical examinations are available free of charge at the Care Center, Edward Hospital in Naperville.

Exams are completed in a child-friendly environment, with a private playroom, conference room and adjoining exam room. Play therapy is used throughout to make the children feel comfortable and safe.

What To Expect

The medical professionals will talk with you and your child about any medical problems or questions. There will be a full head to toe check-up, including a genital/anal exam, to be sure that there are no injuries or infections, including sexually transmitted infections. The genital and anal check is not an internal exam. In some cases, the genital area may be touched with cotton swabs to test for infections.

During the exam, the medical provider may use a colposcope, a large, powerful camera to take magnified pictures of the vaginal and anal areas for documentation purposes.

Is The Medical Exam Required?

No child will be forced to have a medical exam. All children will be offered one. The investigator may request a child to have an exam if:

- The abuse involved the child's genitalia or anus
- Child has symptoms of vaginal or rectal pain, itching, burning, bleeding, or discharge
- Child or parent has concerns that can best be answered by an examining practitioner

- Child would be reassured by an examination
- Extent or type of abuse is unclear and may be clarified by an examination

Who Can Be Present During The Exam?

Many children want a parent or supportive adult in the exam room with them for comfort and reassurance; others prefer to do the exam on their own. The parent, whenever possible, needs to respect the child's preference in this regard.

Will The Exam Be Upsetting To My Child?

No child is ever forced to undergo an examination. For most children, the check-up is not painful. Nevertheless, children may feel worried, embarrassed or uncomfortable about their exam. It is normal for children to feel anxious about their examination. During the evaluation, children are reassured that they are in control, and that nothing will occur unless they are comfortable with it.

Will The Exam Show Whether Or Not My Child Has Been Sexually Abused?

Not necessarily. Most children have no physical injuries to their genital or anal areas. This does not mean that sexual abuse has not occurred. It is possible that children have been involved in sexual activity but have not injured their bodies in a way that leave lasting physical signs. It is also possible that by the time of the exam, the child has have already healed. The vast majority of the exams will result in a normal and healthy finding for your child.

What Can I Do To Make The Exam Easier For My Child?

Children do best when they know what to expect. Explain to your child:

- You are going to a special doctor or nurse so that you can have a check-up. This will include a check-up of your whole body, including your private parts.
- You will be seen by a medical professional whose job is to make sure that children and their bodies are okay.

Tips For Caregivers

- Your child may bring a favorite comfort item. It helps if your child is well rested and has had a snack before they arrive.
- The more relaxed you are, the easier it will be for your child.
- It may be helpful to bring an adult friend or relative to support you.



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EDWARD HOSPITAL