



Medical Aspects of Child Abuse for the MDT

Course Syllabus

Course Coordinator:

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Course Delivery: Self-Paced Online Lessons

Course Description

According to the [*National Children's Alliance Standards for Accreditation*](#), "[a] medical evaluation holds an important place in the multidisciplinary assessment of child abuse. An accurate history is essential in making the medical diagnosis and determining appropriate treatment of child abuse." Furthermore, proper medical evaluations provide important information to support legal decisions in child abuse cases.

Medical Aspects of Child Abuse is a set of independent lessons that can be viewed individually or in conjunction with the other lessons to give the participant a general understanding of the medical aspects of different forms of child abuse. By understanding what is needed medically to diagnose and treat children for suspected child abuse and neglect, the multidisciplinary team can work together for the best outcome of the child.

Course Objectives

Students who complete these lessons successfully will be able to:

- Explain the role of the medical provider within the multidisciplinary team
- Demonstrate how to assess physical injuries that are diagnostic for abuse.
- Understand normal childhood development, including sexual development and behaviors that may be concerning for sexual abuse.



- Determine when a client requires an acute medical evaluation with forensic evidence collection and/or sexually transmitted infections prophylaxis.
- Explain other issues related to child sexual abuse, including: child sexual abuse material (pornography), drug facilitated sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation of children and runaway youth.

Course Format

The course is comprised of nine lessons. Each lesson is designed to take approximately fifteen minutes each. It is designed as a self-paced course and participants can view one, a few or all of the lessons as they desire.

This course will be delivered entirely online through the Midwest Regional CAC's eLearning Portal. In the eLearning Portal, students have access to all course materials and resources.

eLearning Portal Access

To access the course on the eLearning Portal, you will need a supported Web browser (Internet Explorer 10 or higher, Chrome, Firefox, Safari) with Flash enabled and the ability to download PDF files. Consult with your employer to verify whether your workstation meets these requirements prior to enrolling.

Participants will receive instructions on how to access and use the Midwest Regional CAC eLearning portal following confirmation of registration and additional technical assistance will be posted within the course. All readings are provided to you within the individual course lessons. These readings can be downloaded and printed. We strongly encourage you to download and save any course materials you want to reference in the future.

NOTE: Research publications provided in these training materials are copyright protected. The publications may not be shared, reproduced, or transmitted in any form or by any means, without written permission from the publishers.

Any students with disabilities or other special needs who need special accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with the course coordinator. Please contact Midwest Regional CAC at kim.martinez@childrensmn.org as soon as possible after registering for the course.



Lesson	Title	Learning Topics
1	Role of the Medical Provider on the MDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role of the Medical Provider on the Multidisciplinary Team
2	Child Development and Sexual Behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normal Growth and Development<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Infancy: Birth to 12 Months○ Early Childhood: 1-6 Years○ Middle Childhood: 6-12 Years• Normal Child and Adolescent Sexual Patterns and Behaviors• Acquisition of Personal and Social Skills and Behaviors• Other Considerations for Medical Evaluation
3	Child Sexual Abuse Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normal Anatomy• When a Child Needs an Acute Forensic Examination• What the Medical Exam Consists of
4	Child Sexual Abuse Material, Drug Facilitated Sexual Abuse, and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Sexual Abuse Material• Drug Facilitated Sexual Abuse• Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children• Runaway Youth
5	Cutaneous Injuries: Bruises and Bites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Types of Cutaneous Injuries• Identifying Abuse Injuries (age, pattern, body region, ambulatory status)• Differential Diagnosis of Bruising• Coagulation Disorders• Facts about Bruises and Bites• Bites• Dermatologic Conditions• Folk Therapies• Role of Medical Provider
6	Cutaneous Injuries: Burns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burn Types and Mechanism of Injury



Lesson	Title	Learning Topics
7	Fractures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abusive Fractures in Children• Mechanism of Injury• Diagnostic Testing
8	Abusive Head Trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanism of Injury• Intracranial Hemorrhages• Differential Diagnosis• Retinal Hemorrhages• Consequences of Shaking• Medical History and Work-Up
9	Abdominal Trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facts about Abdominal Trauma• Abdominal Trauma Presentation• Presenting Signs and Symptoms• Indicators of Abdominal Trauma

Funder/Sponsor Acknowledgements



Development of this course was supported by Grant #2016-CI-FX-K001 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



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