

Recognizing

CHILD MALTREATMENT

in the Central Texas Region



CDC definition of child abuse and neglect: any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child

Developmental Milestones

2 months – improving head control

4 months – starting to roll

6 months – sitting with(out) help

9 months – crawling, standing

12 months and beyond – walking, running, climbing



Red Flags History

- No history of injury
- Changing/inconsistent history
- Unwitnessed injury
- Delay in seeking care
- Age of injury not consistent with history provided
- Injury mechanism inconsistent with the developmental age of the child
- Caregiver appears intoxicated or under the influence of drugs/ ETOH or positive screen for drugs at the time the child was injured



Red Flags Physical Exam & Eval

- Unexplained death < 18 years of age
- Unexplained injury to a child of any age
- Fatal or near fatal submersion or asphyxiation event
- Fracture with an inconsistent mechanism
- Fracture in a non-ambulatory infant
- Any bruising in a non-mobile infant or child that is patterned, extensive, or located on the ears, neck, or torso
- Frenulum tear in a non-ambulatory child
- Any burn in a child ≤ 3 years of age or unexplained burn at any age
- Unexplained skull fracture or intracranial injury
- Traumatic retinal hemorrhages
- STD in a pre-pubertal child
- Unexplained solid organ or internal injury
- Child ≤ 12 years of age with a positive drug/ETOH screen
- Multiple injuries at different stages of healing
- Metaphyseal fractures (corner)
- Rib or sternal fractures
- Scapular, spinous process, or vertebral body fractures
- Multiple fractures or undiagnosed healing fractures
- Intracranial hemorrhages in a young child
- Injury that occurred during an incident of family violence
- Concern for medical child abuse or caregiver fabricated illness

Thoroughly document **all history and injuries!**

Consult **social work** & consider transfer to BSW
McLane Children's Medical Center for further evaluation including skeletal survey and lab work

CPS referral if indicated (inform the parents)



Be direct & objective with family; **focus on the child's safety**



Ask for assistance if needed and **report child abuse: 1-800-252-5400**



Infographic by Betsy Haberl, MD



~Other resources: www.txabusehotline.org and the Child Protector App~
For questions & transfers, please call McLane Children's admissions at 254-935-KIDS (5437).