



PEDIATRIC SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE



Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

This protocol should be used when the paramedic suspects that child abuse may have occurred. See [Signs of Child Abuse](#) and [Report of Abuse](#).

Child abuse is when a person intentionally inflicts, or allows to be inflicted, physical or psychological injury to a child, which causes or results in risk of death, disfigurement, or distress.

Child neglect is when a child's physical, mental, or emotional condition is impaired or in danger because of failure of the legal guardian to supply basic necessities, including: adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, or medical care.

Supportive Care

1. [Trauma Supportive Care Protocol](#).
2. Advise law enforcement that child abuse is suspected.
3. Protect child from further abuse.
4. Obtain information in a non-judgmental manner.
5. Do not confront caregiver and/or parent.
6. Transport patient to the hospital for evaluation and possible treatment (a).
7. Report suspected child abuse (Florida Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-342-9152) (b).

ALS Level 1

None



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ALS Level 2 (*Physician Authorization Required*)

None

Note

- (a) If Parent's refuse to have patient transported to hospital, request law enforcement assistance.
- (b) **Reporting of suspected child abuse is required by law.**



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