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).


ALS Level 1

None
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.