Pediatric Non-Accidental Trauma Clinical Pathway  June 2025			
Outcomes/Goals	Define a clear workflow for suspected or confirmed pediatric non-accidental trauma.		
Inclusion Criteria	Patients from birth through age 18 with suspected or confirmed non-accidental trauma		
<b>Exclusion Criteria</b>	Patients who are clinically unstable should be resuscitated prior to use of this pathway.  For patients presenting with suspected sexual assault, reference the <u>sexual assault pathway</u> .		
NURSE Documentation	<ul> <li>Chief complaint</li> <li>Onset of symptoms</li> <li>Full set of vitals including temperature</li> <li>Document Legal decision maker</li> <li>ESI Triage Level 2 if NAT known or suspected</li> </ul>		
INTERVENTIONS	Undress and gown patient to facilitate thorough exam, Place IV and collect urine prn		
PHYSICIAN (LIP)			
Evaluation	History* and Undressed Physical Exam** w/Skin Survey		
DIAGNOSTICS  #Note:	LABS AND IMAGING SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH SCAN PROVIDER Initial Labs: CBC w/diff, CMP, Lipase, Urinalysis, Urine Toxicology screen Additional Labs:		
Skeletal survey requires daytime radiology. Admit for skeletal survey if	<ul> <li>If bruising or concern for intracranial injury- Coagulation Panel (Consider von Willebrand panel, Factor IX, Platelet Function Assay. If intracranial hemorrhage-consider Factor XIII in addition to above)</li> <li>If fracture- Calcium, Phosphorous, PTH, Vit D 25-OH</li> </ul>		
presenting at night.	<ul> <li>If chest or abdominal injury OR ill appearance AND &gt;3 months- Troponin</li> <li>If altered mentation consider other toxicology labs- ETOH, Acetaminophen, Salicylates</li> <li>Imaging<sup>7,8,9</sup>***</li> <li>6 months - Mandatory Skeletal Survey # and Neuro Imaging</li> <li>6-24 Months - Mandatory Skeletal Survey # Strongly Consider Neuro Imaging</li> <li>24 months-5 years – Obtain Skeletal Survey # IF: Severe injury, high suspicion, severe developmental delay, Failure to thrive (see appendix), at request of abuse specialist Any Age</li> <li>Consider head imaging for facial or head bruising or swelling, abnormal neurologic exam/seizure, recurrent vomiting, fussiness, respiratory compromise, or high suspicion. Do NOT use PECARN. Discuss with SCAN. Often CT initially, MRI may be needed later in workup.</li> <li>Consider C-Spine imaging for head injury, inability to clinically clear, or high suspicion</li> <li>CT Abdomen and Pelvis if concern based on H&amp;P, AST of ALT &gt;80 or Lipase &gt;100</li> </ul>		
Consultation	Mandatory Consults for ALL suspected or confirmed NAT <18 years of age  ■ Pediatric Surgery, Social work, and SCAN Team  - Pediatric Emergency Medicine administrator is on call for problem solving  - Alert DHS Hotline for the appropriate county of residence- Social work may help		
Medication(s)  Disposition	Treat pain, nausea, anxiety, and other health concerns as clinically indicated.  1. Admit- If clinically indicated or if, in consultation with DHS and SCAN, it is determined that a patient cannot be discharged to a safe environment  a. Admit to Pediatric Surgery when the injury itself warrants inpatient care.  Otherwise admit to Pediatric Hospitalist (with Pediatric surgery consult).  2. Ensure appropriate calls were made to DHS and/or law enforcement and document 3. If discharging, discuss any necessary referral or follow up (see Appendix 6 b)		

# DCH Pediatric Non-Accidental Trauma Clinical Pathway

#### Kev

- BRUE- (brief resolved unexplained event)
- Infant < 1 yo stops breathing, has a change in muscle tone.</li>
- pallor/cyanosis, or unresponsiveness Event < 60 seconds
- Frightening to the caregiver
- CPS- Child protective Services
- DHS Department of Humans Services (includes child protective services)
- •NAT- Nonaccidental Trauma
- SCAN Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect
- •w/o without (i.e. without contrast)
- Decision
- Action
- Off Pathway
- Disposition

#### \* Concerning History Risk Factors

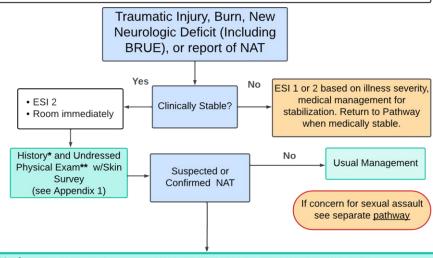
- History absent, vague, changing, implausible, or clearly inconsistent with injury
- Significant story variation over time or between witnesses
- Referred for suspected child abuse
- Red Flag Factors (may be relevant in context of risk factors/injuries)
- Unwitnessed or not publically witnessed (independently verifiable by a non-related witness) injury or neurologic event
- · Delay in seeking care
- · Prior ED visit for injury
- · Lack of regular health care
- · Domestic violence in home
- Past or current DHS/CPS involvement
- Premature infant (<37 weeks) and low birth weight/intra-uterine growth retardation (IUGR)
- · Chronic medical conditions

#### \*\* Concerning Physical Exam Findings

- Bruise anywhere on an infant < 4 months without confirmed trauma in public setting to account for bruising
- Any bruise in child </=4 yo in the 'TEN' region: Torso (chest, abdomen, back, buttocks, genitourinary region, and hips), Ears and Neck. or FACES-p (Frenulum, Angle of jaw, Cheek, Eyelids, Subconjunctivae; P for Patterned
- Bruise, mark or scar in pattern that suggests being hit by an object
- Perineal or genital injury
- Burn injury suggestive of abuse: a) contact heated contact of an object (cigarette, iron, knife against the skin or b) scald - immersion burns to hands, feet, buttocks and perineum with flexion sparing of popliteal fossa or groin (tub burn)
- · Any injury in a non-mobile child
- · Unexplained injury or injury without history
- Failure-to-thrive (by growth charts; see definition)
- Large head in children under 1 yo (by occipitofrontal circumference > 85th%ile)
- Signs of neglect (e.g. untreated dental caries)

### \*\*\* Concerning Imaging Findings

- Metaphyseal or corner fracture
- Rib fractures (especially posterior) in any child <</li>
   3 years old
- · Any fracture in a non-ambulating child
- · An undiagnosed healing fracture
- Subdural or subarachnoid hemorrhage on neuro-imaging, particularly in absence of skull fracture in child < 1 year
- Isolated humerus or femur fracture in child <18 months without public trauma to account for it
- Hollow viscus injury, particularly duodenal/small bowel injury, in children <4 years, or combined hollow viscus + solid organ injury



#### Labs- Labs and imaging should be discussed with scan provider

- · CBCw/diff
- · CMP
- Lipase
- Urinalysis
- · Urine Toxicology screen
- olf bruising or concern for intracranial injury- Coag Panel etc. based on SCAN recommendation
- olf fracture- Calcium, Phosphorous, PTH, Vit D 25-OH
- olf chest or abdominal injury OR ill apearance AND >3 months- Troponin
- olf altered mentation consider other toxicology labs- ETOH, Acetaminophen, Salycilates

#### **Imaging**

- <6 months Mandatory Skeletal Survey# and Neuroimaging (CT often prefered to MRI)</p>
- 6-24 Months Mandatory Skeletal Survey# (stongly consider Neuroimaging)
- 24 months-5 years Obtain Skeletal Survey# IF: Severe injury, high suspicion, severe developmental delay, Failure to thrive (see Appendix 2), if requested by abuse specialist
- · Any Age:
- Consider neuroimaging for facial or head bruising or swelling, abnormal neurologic exam/seizure, recurrent vomiting, fussiness, respiratory compromise, or high suspicion. Children <12 months may not show clinical signs of head injury. Do NOT use PECARN. Discuss CT vs MRI w/SCAN.
- Consider C-Spine stabilization/imaging for head injury, inability to clinically clear, or high suspicion
- •CT Abdomen and Pelvis if concern based on H&P, AST of ALT >80 or Lipase >100

Other imaging as clincially indicated

Consult- Timing will vary based on level of concern and workup findings

- Mandatory: Consults for ALL suspected or confirmed NAT <18 years of age</p>
- Pediatric Surgery consult or Trauma Activation if indicated

primary doctor and documenting plan for follow up

with various teams including SCAN, trauma, and

If skeletal survey done- repeat needs to be

completed 2 weeks from initial study

Inform DHS for the county of residence

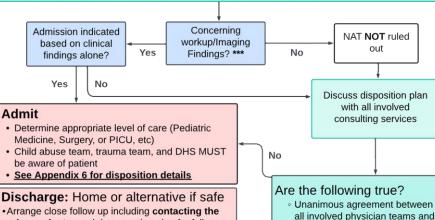
See Appendix 6 for disposition details

- Social work
- SCAN Team

other consultants

• Alert DHS Hotline for the appropriate county of residence- Social work may help

· Any other clinically indicated specialist service- Consider ophthalmology



Yes

social work on discharge with

alternative identified by social

reliable close follow up

Verifiable safe home or

enforcement

worker, DHS, and/or Law

# **Appendix**

- 1. Clinician Provider: Recommended Physical Examination:
  - See Appendix 5 for details on photography
    - a. Skin
      - i. Inspect all areas with child unclothed/in gown
      - ii. Document bruises, petechiae, abrasions, lacerations, scarring pattern injuries (bite marks or suction bruises), other marks. Note distinct shapes of recognizable objects, patterns, distribution, and concerning areas of injury (eg, non-exposed areas such as buttocks, thighs, genitals, ears, and frenulum). Whenever possible document with photographs and include a reference for measurement in the image. See Appendix 5 for details on photography.
    - b. Eyes.
      - i. If abusive head trauma is suspected, consider fundoscopic exam/ultrasound or consult ophthalmology during hospital stay. See Appendix 3 for more detail.
    - c. Oral Exam
      - i. Document lacerations, abrasions, petechiae, ecchymoses
      - ii. Check mucosa, palate, upper and lower frenula, tongue, gums, lips, teeth for signs of injury
    - d. Abdomen
      - i. Look for bruises, abrasions; consider associated intra-abdominal injury
    - e. Anogenital Exam General
      - i. An external anterior and posterior genital exam should be performed. If concerned for sexual assault is present, please reference the <a href="DCH Pediatric Sexual Assault Pathway">DCH Pediatric Sexual Assault Pathway</a>
- 2. Failure to Thrive (FTT)
  - a. The American Academy of Pediatrics defines FTT as "a significantly prolonged cessation of appropriate weight gain compared with recognized norms for age and gender after having achieved a stable pattern (eg, weight-for-age decreasing across 2 major percentile channels from a previously established growth pattern; weight-for-length < 80% of ideal weight). This is often accompanied by normal height velocity. Despite these accepted definitions, caution must be applied when diagnosing FTT based on percentile shifts, because growth variants are common. Actual weight <70% of predicted weight-for-length requires urgent attention.
- 3. Indications for Ophthalmology Consult
  - a. Dilated ophthalmologic exam should performed selectively for children with suspected abusive head trauma in high suspicion or unclear situations provided the neurosurgical situation permits. Patients at highest risk for retinal findings most commonly have intracranial injury on neuroimaging, particularly subdural hemorrhage. Isolated skull fracture does not appear to correlate with risk for retinal findings.
  - b. A child considered low risk for retinal hemorrhages (no intracranial hemorrhage, normal mental status, and no head or facial bruising) does not automatically require a dilated ophthalmological examination but should be at the discretion of the treating team.
  - c. When indicated, retinal examination should ideally take place within 24-48 hours but may still add value if done later.
- 4. Oregon Strangulation Forensic Evidence Kit (SKIT):

IP Consult to RSI/SANE RN

Can be part of sexual assault work up or alone

http://oregonsatf.org/strangulation-forensic-evidence-kit/

Just in time Training Video if SANE RN not available: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-x2JU6YAE47">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-x2JU6YAE47</a>

Each kit contains the necessary documentation, forensic evidence collection swabs, and imaging recommendations for the provider.

- 5. Photographic Evidence Collection (Clinical Provider)
  - a. Photographs of sensitive areas such as genitals are recommended to be taken with digital camera and uploaded in secure server (OnBase) rather than in patient's chart. If bruises are extensive, digital camera and OnBase may be best. Haiku is useful for isolated skin findings which can then be viewed remotely by SCAN provider when consulted by phone.

- b. Photographs should be collected for all suspected or confirmed physical abuse documentation.
- c. Photographs should be obtained of any visualized marks, bruises, or other injuries.
- d. If there is concern for sexual assault is present, please reference the <u>DCH Pediatric Sexual</u>
  Assault Pathway for detail of photographic requirements

## 6. Disposition and Follow-up:

- a. Admit: if clinically indicated or unable to arrange safe discharge plan to which all teams can agree unanimously.
  - i. Admit to Pediatric Surgery when the injury itself warrants inpatient care. Otherwise admit to Pediatric Hospitalist (with Pediatric surgery consult).
- b. Discharge: If in consultation with DHS, it is determined that a patient can be discharged to a safe environment with reliable follow up:
  - i. Ensure appropriate calls were made to DHS and/or law enforcement and document appropriately in the medical chart.
  - ii. Arrange appropriate medical follow-up for primary care, physical injuries, and counseling
  - iii. Discuss with SCAN provider whether other follow up or referral such as patient referral to the appropriate county Child Advocacy Center is necessary.

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## **Revision History Table**

Document Number Rev. mmddyy	Final Approval by	Brief description of change/revision