

# Memorandum

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**From:** Karen Newham, Designated Nurse Safeguarding (Children)

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008

**Subject:** **HIGH IMPORTANCE – BRUISING ON NON AMBULANT BABIES**

There appears to be some confusion amongst staff on when to refer to Social Care when non ambulant babies are found to have bruises and a misconception that it requires two bruises before referral. The following guidance sets out what action to take and follows the Child Protection Procedures for Hampshire.

- Any bruising on a non ambulant baby should always be of significant concern. If any member of staff comes in to contact with a non ambulant baby with bruises this requires a referral to social care to allow a joint assessment between Social Care and Health
- The member of staff should inform the Named Nurses for Safeguarding when this occurs
- Facial bruising should be taken very seriously

**The research into bruising shows that the commonest areas for bruises which occur by abuse, (found in fatally abused children less than five years of age) is the face. 78% of abused children less than four years had facial bruising, in comparison to non-abused children of this age group where 2% had facial bruising. [http://www.core-info.cf.ac.uk/bruising/cobs\\_faq.htm](http://www.core-info.cf.ac.uk/bruising/cobs_faq.htm)**

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