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Child Protection

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this module is to inform GPs about child protection issues. The module explores GP decision-making when faced with different child protection issues in Scotland, and provides supporting information. It aims to improve understanding of the GP's roles and responsibilities with particular reference to:

- Acting in the best interests of the child
- Signs of abuse/neglect
- Recognition of child protection issues as they arise in everyday practice
- How to take action and who to refer to
- The roles and responsibilities of other professionals in child protection
- Understanding the child protection system in Scotland and how the role of the GP fits into this system
- Actions practices can take to safeguard all children in their list

Please note that this module only covers the processes in Scotland. The child protection system in England is quite different in many respects. Although the focus is on the role of the GP, the module is also relevant to practice nurses and other members of the Primary Care team.

CASES

Case 1: Sophie, aged 4

Sophie is brought to see you by her mum, Donna, with a history of a few days of cough and coryza. She has been crying and bad-tempered recently. On examining her you notice some bruising on her upper arm, and bruising on her chest wall which you also think is suspicious of non-accidental injury.