

## CHILD ABUSE



1. The following is a list of findings suspicious of child abuse:
  - ✓ Explanations of mechanisms of injury conflicting with actual injury
  - ✓ Cigarette burns; belt marks; multiple bruises of varied age
  - ✓ History of repeated injuries
  - ✓ Blame placed upon others
  - ✓ Procrastination by caretaker in seeking aid
  - ✓ Sexual abuse may be present without signs of apparent physical abuse
2. Treat injuries according to appropriate trauma protocol.
3. Carefully document caretaker's description of events.
4. Observe carefully and note the:
  - ✓ Environment
  - ✓ Reaction of all adults
  - ✓ Patient's clothing, stains, conditions (bring clothing in with patient)
5. Give the child support and reassurance. Be non-judgmental and supportive to family concerns.
6. Encourage caretaker to allow transport of child to hospital for medical evaluation and/or treatment. If they do not agree, contact **Law Enforcement** or **Child Protective Services** at **(509) 363-3333**.