

Relatives and other escorts

A friend or relative can accompany you to act as an advocate. They may be allowed into the x-ray room in exceptional circumstances.

Siblings and other children will not be allowed into the x-ray room.

Contact details and feed back

This guide is for general information only if you have any specific questions relating to your child's treatment, please talk to the Paediatric team.

If you would like to discuss the safeguarding service please contact The Patient Advice and Liaison Service.

Contact details

Hascombe Ward

Telephone: 01483 571122 **ext** 4070

Safeguarding Team

Telephone: 01483 571122 **ext** 4251

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm
Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

Past review date: N/A

Future review date: June 2020

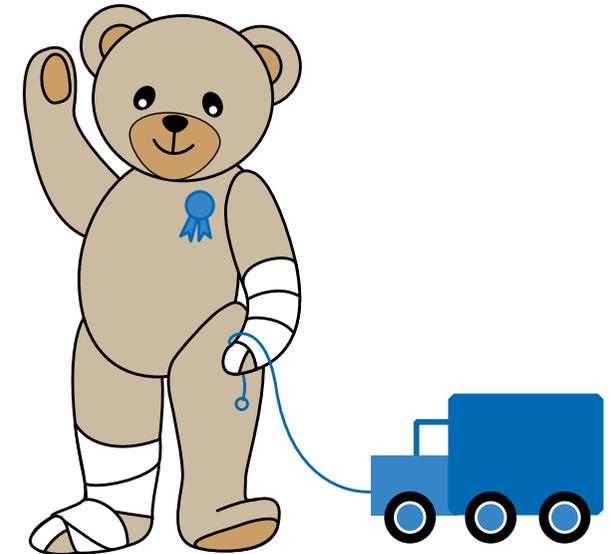
Author: Fiona Gallagher

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Skeletal survey – a safeguarding investigation

Paediatrics Department



Patient information leaflet

What is a skeletal survey?

A skeletal survey is an x-ray image of your child's whole body. This includes their skull, chest, spine, pelvis, arms, legs and feet. The survey examines the bones to determine if there is a bony injury. The paediatrician will ask the person with parental responsibility to consent for the skeletal survey. The x-ray machine produces images of the bones. A full skeletal survey requires 14 to 24 separate images.

Where will the skeletal survey take place?

The Radiology Department perform x-rays at the Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Who will be doing the skeletal survey?

The skeletal survey will be performed by two members of x-ray staff (Radiographers). You will also be accompanied by nursing team member from the Children's Ward.

How to prepare for skeletal survey x-rays

Your child does not need any special preparation. It helps if your child is wearing clothes without metal fastenings that can easily be removed.

X-rays are not painful. Your child may become distressed when they are held still, for certain positions during the x-rays. Please bring a feed, dummy or toy to help settle your child if needed. Sometimes a child may be given a sedative to help them settle during the investigation.

If your child currently needs pain relief, it is best to give it prior to the x-ray.

What happens during a skeletal survey?

An appointment will be made for your child to have a skeletal survey. When it is time, you will be accompanied with your child to the Radiology Department. The radiographer will explain how your child needs to be positioned. The survey will take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete.

If you are pregnant you will not be allowed to accompany your child into the x-ray room. This is due to the risk to your unborn child. You will be able to wait outside and your child will be accompanied by a member of the nursing team.

You and your child will then be brought back to the Children's Ward.

What happens after the skeletal survey?

A Consultant Radiologist (Specialist X-ray doctor) will examine the images and produce a report. The report is sent to the Paediatric doctors, you will be given the results verbally. The images are then checked by a second Radiologist. They will also produce a report and send it to the doctors. These two reports can take 48 hours to compile.

The results will be shared with the multi-agency team. The plan for further investigations will be discussed with you.

A follow up chest x-ray will be required, it will occur 11-14 days after the full skeletal survey.

How much radiation is there in a skeletal survey?

The duration and level of exposure to radiation is controlled and kept to a minimum. All humans are exposed to x-rays from cosmic rays and from the earth and rock. Radiation from X-rays is only a contribution to the total exposure we all have in our lives. The amount of radiation from a skeletal survey is about the same as 4 to 8 months background radiation.