Follow Initial Protocol for All Patients

**Goals:**
- Remove from immediate danger
- Assess/Treat injuries
- Preserve evidence (if applicable)
- Report to appropriate agency

**Signs/Symptoms:**
- Abnormal behavior for age
- Bruising in multiple stages
- Evidence of neglect
- Unexplained trauma

**Documentation Key Points:**
- Meticulous documentation of any statements by the patient and any physical findings on the patient or scene surroundings

**BLS**

**ALS**

**Interfacility**

Address life threatening injuries per appropriate guideline

Remove the patient to a safe place, as needed.

Report suspicions to Emergency Department or receiving facility

Complete mandatory reporter abuse notifications

Verbal report immediately 1-800-362-2178

Written report within 24 hours

**EMS Role:**
1- Document concerns
2- Assess potentially serious injuries
3- Disclose concerns to appropriate authorities
4- Initiate help to get the patient into a safe situation
5- Not to investigate or intervene beyond the steps above
6- Leave further investigation/intervention to law enforcement

Crew members of the same sex may relate better to the patient in time of such emotional crisis.

Be alert to immediate scene and document what you see.

**DO NOT** allow the patient to bathe, douche, change clothes, or go to the bathroom.

Do not disturb any evidence unless necessary for treatment

If disturbed, document how and why it was disturbed.

Preserve evidence, such as clothing you may have had to remove for treatment. To preserve the chain of evidence be sure that the clothing is NEVER, at any time, left unattended. Contact law enforcement as needed.

**Definitions:**

**Abuse/Maltreatment** - Any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a caregiver or person in a position of power over the patient that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a patient.

**Child Maltreatment/Abuse** - Child maltreatment includes any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent, other caregiver, or a person in a position of power that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. An act of commission (child abuse) is the physical, sexual or emotional maltreatment or neglect of a child or children. An act of omission (neglect) includes, but is not limited to, failure to provide for the child's needs (physical, emotional, medical/dental, and educational neglect) and failure to supervise (e.g. inadequate supervision or safety precautions, lack of appropriate care seat use, and exposure to violent or dangerous environments.

**Human Trafficking** - When people are abducted or coerced into services and often transported across state lines or international borders. Signs may include, but are not limited to: patient with branding/tattoos and environmental clues such as padlocks and/or door knobs removed on interior doors, and intact windows that are boarded up.

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Follow initial protocol for all patients. C2. Abuse, maltreatment, and assault.

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