

## PRACTICAL PEARL: SCREENING for CHILD ABUSE

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| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The hardest job is thinking the unthinkable. A simple, memorable “hip pocket rule” that alerts a clinician in that moment is the clinical decision rule TEN-4.</li></ul>  |
| <b>INITIAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT BY PRIMARY CARE</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use TEN-4 for children under 4-years-old: a bruise on the Trunk, Ear, or Neck (TEN) needs evaluation</li><li>• OR, on a child under 4-months-old, <i>any</i> bruise needs to be evaluated for child abuse.</li><li>• In its PICU derivation, TEN-4 had a sensitivity of 97% and a specificity of 84%.</li></ul>   |
| <b>WHEN TO REFER</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All children identified by TEN-4 need consultation.</li><li>• If you think that your patient is an exception, run your reasoning through another clinician.</li><li>• Report to DCF and arrange an appropriate medical assessment for occult injury and underlying medical fragility.</li><li>• These situations are urgent. Though it is “only a bruise”, it can be an unpredictable, potentially fatal situation.</li></ul> |
| <b>HOW TO REFER</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct referral to the Baystate Pediatric Emergency Department is sometimes necessary.</li><li>• Medical consultation is available from the Baystate Child Abuse Pediatrician. Call the Family Advocacy Center social worker at (413) 794-5070 or page through the Baystate operator (413) 794-0000</li><li>• DCF Hotline numbers is (800) 792-5200, or call your local office.</li></ul>                                     |
| <b>WHAT TO EXPECT FROM BAYSTATE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL VISIT</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baystate team will show your patient’s family respect, abuse or not.</li><li>• Children are often admitted to preserve parent-child contact during evaluation.</li><li>• Thorough evaluation of both abuse and alternative possibilities.</li><li>• When necessary, we will work with DCF and the courts to protect the child’s interests.</li></ul>  |

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