

Section 7: Further Reading & Resources

- Check your agency's 'Was Not Brought' policy (or work with health colleagues to go through their WNB policy).
- [Day in the Life Tool](#) (Under Useful Resources)
- Apply the Flourish Framework to assess how well the child is meeting outcomes.

Section 6: Managing Interventions and Support: Medical neglect is challenging and often involves numerous professionals. It is crucial to identify a lead professional and for MDT meetings and communication between agencies, to share information, plans and manage risk. It is imperative that professionals seek supervision. If your agency does not provide safeguarding supervision, consider requesting a [Joint Agency Group Supervision](#). Always call CADS if you require a social work consultation.

Section 5: Family Function & Relationships
Children with medical needs pose extra challenges for families and they need all the support that they can get. Family networking or family group conferencing can support this and ensure children attend appointments, comply with treatments, etc.

Section 1: What is medical neglect? In the context of child abuse, medical neglect refers to the failure of a caregiver to provide appropriate medical care, including dental care, or to seek medical attention when needed, leading to a child's physical or emotional harm. It can also involve refusing or ignoring medical recommendations or treatments.



Section 2: What CYPF say about medical neglect: verbal children report that they are scared that their parent or carer won't step in to help them in a health crisis. Parents responses can vary from denial to disguised compliance (saying what the professionals want to hear but not following through) to disengagement with health.

Section 3: What does research tell us about medical neglect? Medical neglect tends to be a feature of many neglect cases. Through apathy rather than avoidance, children are often not immunised, taken for medical help, given medication, or returned to hospital for initial or follow up procedures and reviews. (Howe 2005). There is evidence that medical neglect is linked to parental mental health issues and/or trauma.

Section 4: Assessment & Support

Parental capacity assessments are required to understand the parents' ability to support their children, identify risks and plan targeted interventions. It is important that the worker builds a trusting relationship with the parent(s) to support this work and make it meaningful for the family.