What to expect when you visit the CSAAC

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Child Sexual Assault Assessment Centre

ℹ️ For more information, please contact:

The Acorn Suite
Children’s Assessment Unit, Ward 18
The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Caring with pride
Caring about what we do ● Respecting and valuing each other
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Visiting the Child Sexual Assault Assessment Centre (CSAAC)

The CSAAC is a specialist unit where children and young people who may have been sexually assaulted can be reviewed and treated by a specially trained children’s doctor.

It is based in a private, secure area of the Children’s Assessment Unit (Acorn Unit) on ward 18 of York Hospital.

When you arrive, you will be shown to a play and relaxation area. A nurse or play specialist will stay with you whilst the doctor discusses what's been happening with the police and other adults, such as a social worker, who are involved in keeping you safe.
You will then come into the examination room (by yourself or with your carer; it’s your choice) and the doctor may ask you about your health in general. The doctor may examine you from head to toe and take any samples needed and sometimes this may include a blood test. You will be able to talk to the doctor about what the examination has shown and any treatment that you might need.

The doctor will be kind and patient and listen to what you say.

Don’t worry if it is difficult or you get confused or upset, the doctor and the nurse will help you.

The visit can take between one and three hours. We can provide drinks and snacks whilst you are with us.
What happens during the examination?

Many children and young people who visit the CSAAC are nervous about being examined. The doctors and nurses know this, and will take their time to explain to you what they need to do and why it is important. The examination will not hurt at any stage.

There will be a doctor and nurse in the room, and there may be a police officer on the other side of the curtain to label any samples (for forensic evidence) if they are taken. If you want you can have someone else with you too; this may be your parent or another relative or carer.
The doctor will have a careful look all over you to check for injuries and to see if you are healthy.

Photos may be taken of any injuries, and information about any injuries will be written down or drawn in a booklet. The doctor may use a magnifying torch called a colposcope to look at your private area or bottom, and might take swabs with a cotton bud. Though most of the time this isn’t needed, you may also have a swab taken from your mouth, and a urine (wee) and blood test to check for any infections.
What happens after the examination?

When the examination is finished, the doctor will talk to you about what was found, and go through any treatments you might need. You will also be able to discuss further support available to you, to help you cope with what has happened and how you feel about it all.

You will then be able to go back to the play and relaxation area, while the doctor and police finish talking and sorting out any samples that have been taken. All the notes, photos and other information about you will be kept safe in the hospital or with the police. This will only be discussed with people who really need to know such as your GP or a social worker.

If you would like to, you can have a shower before you leave. We have toiletries, towels and dressing gowns that you can use.

Everyone who works at the CSAAC will try to make sure you feel safe and looked after all the time you are here.

Do ask us any questions you want, and let us know if you need anything.

You can also tell us if you think there’s anything we could change or do better.

We can help with car parking expenses, and the nurse will explain this with your relative or carer when you arrive.
How to find us:

York Hospital is on Wigginton Road, North of York City Centre. Our postcode is YO31 8HE. There is parking on site and buses stop nearby on Wigginton Road. You can find more information at www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk.
When you arrive at the hospital, follow the main corridor to Junction 8 and follow signs for Ward 18 which is on the first floor. Please press the buzzer at the door and a member of staff will let you in.

Once you are inside the ward, The Acorn Suite is the first door on your right. Please press the buzzer outside the door of the Suite and we will come and meet you.

Remember; we are here to help and support you, so please do feel free to ask any questions or ask for anything you need.

**Useful contacts:**

Liz Costello, Lead Nurse:  01904 721813

Acorn Suite Office:  01904 725152
Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Liz Costello, Lead Nurse, CSAAC, Acorn Suite, Children’s Assessment Unit, Ward 18, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 721813.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email pals@york.nhs.uk.

An answer phone is available out of hours.
Providing care together in York, Scarborough, Bridlington, Malton, Selby and Easingwold communities

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format

01904 725566
email: access@york.nhs.uk

Braille  Audio e.g. CD
Large print  Electronic

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