



SCAN Clinic – A Place for Kids

Suspecting that your child may have been sexually abused can be a painful experience. We would like to make your visit to the SCAN Clinic as comfortable as possible by answering some commonly asked questions.

Who are the health care providers in the clinic?

The SCAN Team consists of Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, Social Workers and Child Life Specialists. All team members have special training working with children and families in crisis. The team's main goal is to make sure that your child is safe and healthy.

What happens when I get to the clinic?

The intake coordinator will get some information about you and your child. Then you (the parent or guardian of the child) will talk privately with the social worker. Private conversations may also take place with the child. The child will be weighed, measured and a medical provider will perform a complete head-to-toe physical assessment.

Will there be any special tests done?

The medical provider may order tests or lab work at the time of the exam if they feel it is necessary. Not all children need tests or lab work. Our specially trained staff provides for the healthcare needs of children in a gentle way. Our clinic is child friendly.

What is the actual exam like?

The exam is done in a gentle manner. The child is never forced to have an exam. Child Life Specialists are highly trained to help children manage medical evaluations and procedures. Child Life Specialists are available in our clinic. The medical provider may use a magnifying light called a "colposcope" to carefully examine the child on the outside of the child's body. Most children tolerate the exam procedure just fine. You can be with your child to make them more comfortable if your child wants.

Should I talk to my child about sexual abuse?

Yes, it is fine to talk to your child, but keep things simple. If your child asks questions about the abuse try to be very matter-of-fact. Answer in a simple way that your child will understand. We do not recommend that you question your child. SCAN Clinic staff is available if you would like guidance on how to talk to your child. SCAN Clinic Social Workers and Nurses have special training in caring for children who may have experienced sexual abuse. Please feel free to call the clinic if you would like to talk to one of our staff.

What happens after the exam?

The medical provider or social worker will talk to you about your child's exam. We often recommend other services or agencies that could be helpful to you and your child. Your child's health and well being is important to us. Please let us know about any questions or concerns you have about your child.

What do I need to bring with me?

- If you are not the parent, bring proof of guardianship.
- Bring one other adult to be with your child so that you can talk privately with our staff before the medical provider sees your child.
- We ask that you do not bring other children with you because our space and resources are limited.