

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

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Julia Sharp
5-11 Theobalds Road
London
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Dear Julia

Re: RCPCH 'The Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse - An evidence based review and guidance for best practice'

Thank you for asking the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) for comments on the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) handbook 'The Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse - An evidence based review and guidance for best practice' published in 2008.

As you are aware the FFLM was a Stakeholder Organisation for this handbook and was represented on the Project Board and the majority of the Working Groups. The FFLM looks forward to continuing to work with the RCPCH as it updates this handbook when more evidence becomes available. The FFLM also welcomes the opportunity to participate in any research projects or data collection that the RCPCH undertakes.

In order to gather feedback from the FFLM members (approximately 700) we put your request for comments on the forum of the FFLM web-site and sent an e-mail to all of the members on the 12th August. Only a limited number of responses were received which may reflect the time of year of our posting and the short consultation period.

General feedback received was 'how very user friendly' and 'helpful' the handbook is. There were two specific comments received; the first relates to problems a Forensic Physician had in court regarding the use of the term 'complete' in the fifth bullet point under 'Hymenal transections' on page 37 and healing of transections. I have attached this doctor's comments to allow further discussion by the Female genital signs working group. The second specific comment related to the mode of transmission of gonorrhoea. Again I have attached this feedback so it can be considered by the STI Working Group.

I will be representing the FFLM at the meeting on the 12th October and look forward to further discussion.

Yours sincerely

Debbi Rogers
On behalf of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine