**Teaching points - child protection in the ED: identify, consult, respond**

Here are some pre-prepared teaching points to use opportunistically eg in handovers:

* Child abuse/neglect is on every differential diagnosis list for paediatric presentations: always consider this as an option.
* Patients who are carers may be putting children at risk. Examples: mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence. Think about what’s going on outside the department.
* Act on your gut feel - always talk to a senior person if you’re worried.
* The Mandatory Report Guide (MRG) gives clear advice about whether a report should be made.
* Urgent reports should be made to the Helpline. Non-urgent reports can be made online.
* The MRG may direct staff to call the NSW Health Child Wellbeing Unit. Messages can be left after hours.
* As with any other ED discharge, safety considerations are part of ED planning. What does this family need right now?
* Possible child sexual abuse warrants consultation with the Sexual Assault Service as soon as possible. This reduces the risk of evidence being tainted or lost.
* Know your red flags. Fractures, head injuries and bruises in babies should have everyone worried. Stories that change or don’t make sense given the examination findings or developmental age need further attention.