



Mandated Reporter Training: Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Maltreatment/Neglect

Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Scenario D

Eight-year-old Jason comes to the ER with a broken arm. His mother says he fell off the bed. When Jason's arm is x-rayed there is a spiral fracture to his humerus.

- What indicators are present?

- Is there reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?

- Is there a parent or other person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?

- What are your next steps?



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Evaluating Your Response

Please evaluate the following cases and rate them by category.

Category A This should be left to the family.

Category B Assistance to seek community agency or resource as appropriate.

Category C Report to State Central Register (SCR).

Category D Call the police immediately.

- Case 1** A mother comes into the ER with black eyes as a result of domestic violence. She has two young children with her. She says her husband beat her. She also stated that he told her he would kill her and the two children if she told anyone.
- Case 2** Mrs. Pitt has two daughters, ages seven and nine. The children suffer from impetigo, a contagious skin disease. Mrs. Pitt has kept clinic appointments and carried out the doctor's instructions but the impetigo still persists.
- Case 3** The Ross family has one child, a girl age five. The mother takes good care of her, but is extremely anxious that the child will contract a disease. She brings the child into the ER regularly for minor things. She states that she doesn't allow her daughter to socialize with other kids because she's afraid her daughter will catch something.
- Case 4** Joshua, age seven, was brought to the ER by his parents. Upon medical evaluation, he is diagnosed with a life threatening illness requiring an emergency surgical procedure and the likelihood of a blood transfusion. His parents refuse to sign consent forms, claiming that a blood transfusion violates their religious beliefs.



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Reasonable Cause to Suspect: Answer Key

SCENARIO A

- **What indicators are present?**
Sexual abuse and verbal disclosure
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**
38-year-old boyfriend (an adult living in the home)
- **What are your next steps?**
Call in report to SCR.

SCENARIO B

- **What indicators are present?**
Bruises, scrapes
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**
No, the story is consistent with a bike injury. Injuries sustained in an accidental fall would be along one side of the child's body.
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**
No
- **What are your next steps?**
Treat child's injuries.

SCENARIO C

- **What indicators are present?**
Neonatal drug withdrawal
No plan for the baby
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**
Mother
- **What are your next steps?**
Call in report to SCR.

SCENARIO D

- **What indicators are present?**
Spiral fracture
No plausible explanation
- **Is there a reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment?**
Yes
- **Is there a person responsible for the suspected abuse or maltreatment?**
Mother
- **What are your next steps?**
Call in report to SCR.



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Evaluating Your Response Answer Key

Category A This should be left to the family.

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Category C Report to State Central Register (SCR).

Category D Call the police immediately.

Case 1 D, and then C — Call the police immediately and then make a report to the SCR.

Case 2 A — Parents are providing appropriate medical care. As a medical practitioner, you might want to offer other medical treatment.

Case 3 B — Refer parent for counseling, parenting classes, or other services that may be necessary.

Case 4 C — You must report this even if the hospital intervenes for treatment of the child.