



Good Practice Guidance for Attending Adoption Medicals

Adoption medicals provide opportunities to address any concerns about the health of a child. Good preparation and planning plays an important role towards the child's plan.

In all cases the following must be followed:

1. A Mother & Baby (M & B) form must be completed when a child has a plan for adoption. The completed form should be emailed to the Adoption Team.
2. Where a baby has been discharged from hospital into foster care, a **discharge summary** should be part of the child's adoption medical. The Social Worker must ensure that the foster carer has a copy of this. The Social Worker, who attends the medical, should also take a copy with them for the medical adviser to consider as part of the health assessment.
3. **Parental Health (PH) must be brought to medical appointments.** There has been a rise in birth parents attending medicals with the Social Worker and their child and this is good, however, the PH form must still be completed and handed over to the medical adviser. A consent form is needed for the Medical Advisor to be able to view the parent's records.
4. When a **referral** to adoption is made, the Social Worker must **book a medical immediately** as any delay impacts on clinic appointments/availability and subsequently on court timescales. In order for the medical to take place, the Social Worker need to provide the medical paperwork to Business Support as soon as this is completed and no less than 2 weeks in advance of the medical taking place.
5. Social Workers must wear their **ID badges** when attending clinics.
6. Where possible Social Workers should **bring their laptops to medical appointments** so that information can be accessed from the system for the medical adviser if required. This will avoid any unnecessary delays.