

## A background to -

- **Pathway of care regarding suspected birth marks including Mongolian Blue Spots.**
- **Protocol for the assessment of Bruising and other possible injuries in Non-Mobile Children.**

Bruising in non-mobile children is rare and there is therefore a significant risk that bruising may indicate abusive or neglectful care. Unfortunately nationally and locally bruising is not always responded to appropriately by Health Visitors, Doctors, GPs and other health professionals. As a result a significant number of abusive events have been missed resulting in children being placed at risk, serious untoward incidents and serious case reviews.

The above protocols sets out to address this by requiring all professionals to refer bruising in non-mobile children for assessment by Consultant Paediatrician and Social Care.

**The above has proved successful in identifying concerns in a significant proportion of the children referred.**

Unfortunately issues around birth marks including *Mongolian Blue spots* have led to a small number of families being inappropriately referred causing significant distress and inconvenience. Such birth marks are sometimes not being recognised and in particular are often not documented in the child's records when first seen.

**It is therefore essential to learn how to recognise birth marks** in small infants and to document them in the child's health records, including the parent hand held record. New guidelines and processes are being devised to support this in Maternity practice and during "baby checks" in the community.

**Hopefully this will reduce the incidence of confusion** and it makes it even more important that new bruising in non-mobile children is referred for expert assessment.

### Examples of Mongolian Blue Spot

