

RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD MALTREATMENT

Robert Sege, MD PhD
Genevieve Preer, MD
Boston Medical Center
Child Protection Team
March 11, 2014

Learning Goals

- Review legal requirements for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect
- Learn how to consult the Child Protection Team when child maltreatment is suspected

Outline



10 minutes: Essential knowledge for mandated reporters

5 minutes: Medical neglect

5 minutes: Questions

Am I a Mandated Reporter?

- Yes! All members of the medical team
- State law overrides confidentiality
- No liability for an erroneous report filed in good faith
- Civil and criminal penalties for failure to report

When do I file?

Reasonable cause to believe that a child is being abused or neglected by a caretaker

A child is anyone under 18

You are filing on behalf of the child, not “against” the parent or guardian

dcf MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
Children & Families
Supporting Children • Strengthening Families

**Report of Child(ren) Alleged to be Suffering from
Serious Physical or Emotional Injury by Abuse or Neglect**

Massachusetts law requires an individual who is a mandated reporter to immediately report any allegation of serious physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse and/or neglect to the Department of Children and Families by:
1. Immediately reporting by oral communication; and
2. Completing and sending this written report to the appropriate Department of Children and Families office within 48 hours of making the oral report.
For more information about requirements for mandated reporters and filing a report of alleged abuse and/or neglect please see
A Guide for Mandated Reporters available on the DCF website at www.mass.gov/dcf.

Please complete all sections of this form. If some data are uncertain or unknown, please signify by placing a question mark ("?) after the entry.

1 CHILDREN REPORTED

Name	Current Location / Address	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Age or Date of Birth
		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	

2 PARENT OR GUARDIAN 1

Name	First	Last	Middle
Address			
Street & Number	City / Town	State	Zip Code
Phone #		Age / Date of Birth	
Primary Language Spoken (if known)		Ethnicity (if known)	

3 PARENT OR GUARDIAN 2

Name	First	Last	Middle
Address			
Street & Number	City / Town	State	Zip Code
Phone #		Age / Date of Birth	
Primary Language Spoken (if known)		Ethnicity (if known)	

4 REPORTER / REPORT

Report Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Report <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Report
Reporter's Name	
First	Middle Last
(If the reporter represents an institution, school or facility, please indicate)	
Reporter's Address	
Street & Number	City / Town State Zip Code
Phone #	
Relationship to the Child	
Has reporter informed caretaker of report? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

We are not law
enforcement

...but these cases
are not easy.



What are my protective concerns?

→ ABUSE: Non-accidental commission of any act by a caretaker that causes or creates substantial risk of physical or emotional injury

→ NEGLECT: Failure by caretaker to provide minimally adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, supervision, emotional stability and growth, or other essential care

Resources to help: BMC CPT

- Online support
- 24/7 On-call system
 - Social Work 7336, Medical 7340
- Routine 51A review
- Multi-disciplinary team

BMC | Intranet - Windows Internet Explorer

http://internal.bmc.org/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Centricity Enterprise Web V3.0 BMC | Intranet

Home (Alt+M)

INTRANET

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER
EXCEPTIONAL CARE. WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

Volume Safety Satisfaction Cost

BMC GUIDE

Coming Events

- Aug 2: Boston Sports Club Employee Discount
- Aug 9: Sprint Wireless
- Aug 17: At&T Wireless
- Sep 1: Boston Sports Club Employee Discount
- Sep 13: Sprint Wireless

[View Events Calendar](#)

Physician Directory

Email Login

Employee Directory & Paging

Employee Information Portal

MyBMC.org

Newsletters

- BMC Brief
- Cardiovascular Center
- FPP - Newsletter
- Volunteer Services

[Dashboard Portal](#)

[Volunteer opportunities for BMC employees](#)

[VSSC Suggestion](#)

Hot Topics

Read The Latest Issue Of The BMC Brief

The July 19 issue of the BMC Brief is available [online](#). Read it to catch up on BMC news, including:

- BMC ranked in U.S. News and World Report Best Hospitals
- Residents see poverty through patients' eyes
- Herbal medicine found to treat asthma
- Decreasing pulmonary complications with I COUGH
- Cure your allergies ... with a drop

Tell us what you think of the BMC Brief. Send your comments and story suggestions to communications@bmc.org.

@Work

- [AHQQA](#)
- [Careers at BMC](#)
- [Change Pager Password](#)
- [Emergency/Disaster Response](#)
- [Faculty Development and Diversity](#)
- [FY 2011 Goals](#)
- [Glycemic Control](#)
- [Green committee](#)
- [Human Resources](#)
- [STARS - Incident/Medication Safety](#)
- [The Universal Protocol - A Surgical Safety Checklist](#)
- [Patient Keeper](#)
- [Policies & Procedures](#)
- [Printing at BMC](#)
- [2011 Joint Commission Standards](#)

Clinical Resources

- [Auto Logon PC Links](#)
- [BedBoard](#)
- [Canopy](#)
- [Centricity RIS/PACS](#)
- [Child Protection Team](#)
- [East Boston Amicas PACS](#)
- [East Boston EpicCare](#)
- [eReferral Portal](#)
- [Geriatrics At Your Fingertips](#)
- [Harrison's Online](#)

<https://ebpacs1.ebnhc.org/>

Local intranet 100%

Pediatrics | Child Protection Team | Boston Medical Center - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.bmc.org/pediatricschildprotection.htm

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Centricity Enterprise Web V3.0 BMC Pediatrics | Child Protecti...

Home | News | Giving to BMC | Directions | Careers | Sitemap

> Search GO

Our Services For Patients & Visitors For Medical Professionals About BMC Contact Us

Service FastFind
 GO

Make an Appointment

Find a Physician

Refer / Admit a Patient

Our Services
Pediatrics Child Protection Team Home

Services

Our Team

Patient Information

Research

For Medical Professionals

Home | Our Services | Pediatrics Child Protection Team Home

Pediatrics – Child Protection Team

Print Text Size + -

Home

The Child Protection Team (CPT), part of the Department of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center, addresses issues of child abuse and maltreatment including identification, prevention, safety and protection.

The mission of the CPT is to

- Ensure that child victims of abuse and

The CPT comprises pediatricians, nurse practitioners, social workers, nurses, child life specialists and

Contacts

Call: 617.414.3663
Fax: 617.414.3648

Boston Medical Center
Department of Pediatrics
Child Protection Team
Yawkey Ambulatory Care Center
5th Floor
850 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

Google “bmc cpt”

Legal issues

- Filing is required for suspicion – *no need to be completely sure that maltreatment has occurred*
- 51A and HIPAA allow sharing information with DCF and police for suspected abuse or neglect, *including otherwise confidential information, parental permission is NOT required*
- 51A begins a long process of assessment or investigation – *typically support, rarely removal.*

Case

- 28 year old mother of two admitted for drug overdose
- Recently admitted to MICU for overdose
- Poorly compliant with therapy
- Multiple missed appointments
- Mother often raises her voice and can be abrasive
- Are you concerned about medical neglect?

Case , continued

- Mother is functionally illiterate
- Mother has 6-month-old twins
- Transportation is a barrier
- Mother reports that she leaves her kids with grandma when she parties

Addressing Neglect

- In your note, and with the family, clearly state your criteria for considering report to DCF
- Be willing to re-evaluate
- **Consult Child Protection Team for assistance – these cases are not easy**

Filing a 51A in 3 Easy Steps

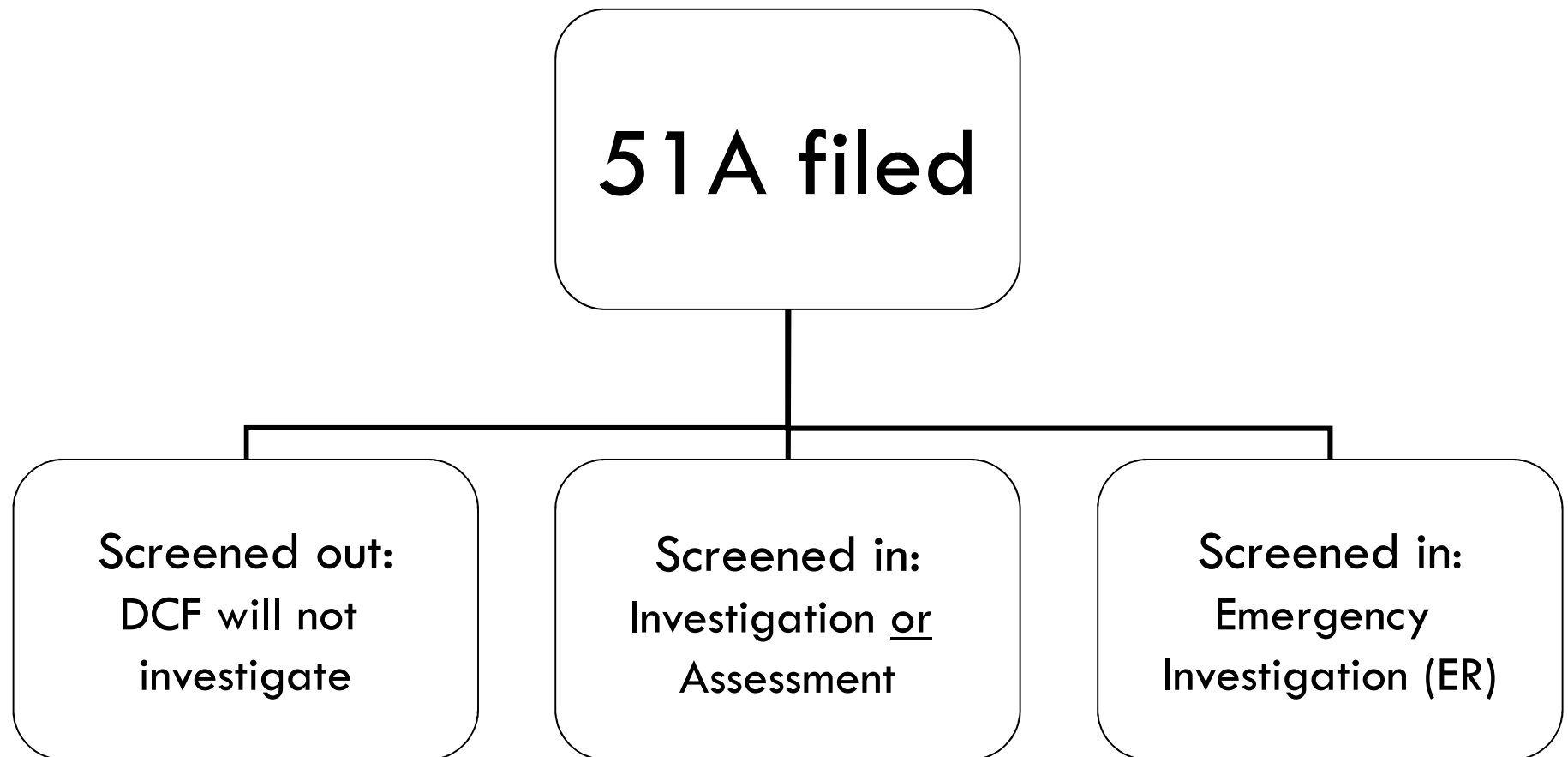
- 1) Call in verbal report to DCF (immediately)
- 2) Fax written report to DCF (within 48 hours)
- 3) Fax written report to CPT at 4-3648 for case review

How do I tell the parent?

- Explain that you are a mandated reporter
- Explain why you are filing:
 - Concerned because of the following facts
 - Filing “on behalf of the child”
- **Tell them what to expect next**

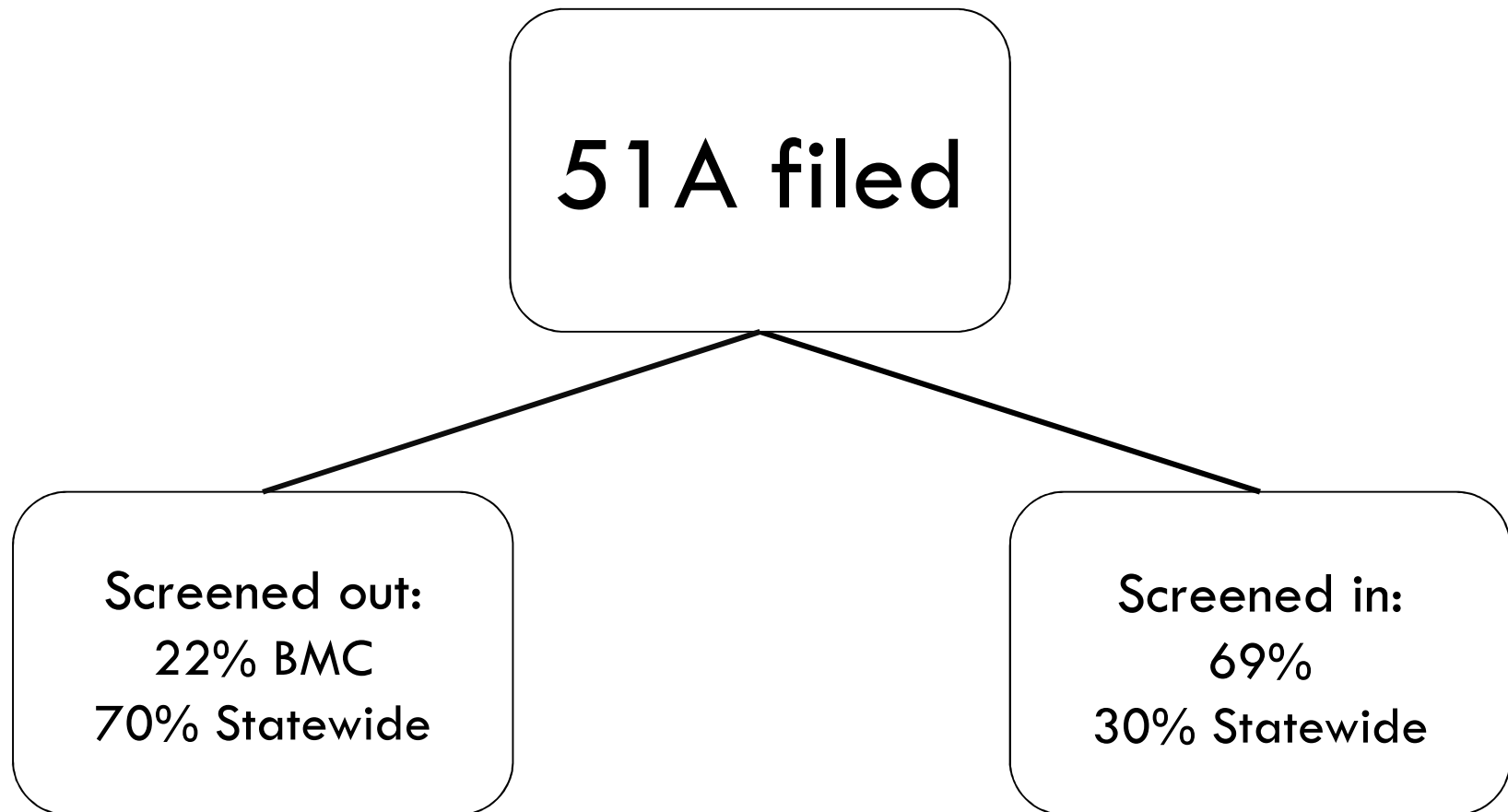


DCF response to the 51A...



District Attorney may be notified at any time for a criminal investigation

DCF response to the 51A...



DCF timeline

- Screening – up to 3 business days
- Investigation – up to 15 business days
- Services – indefinite period
- *BMC CPT can help you:*
 - *Make your concerns clear to DCF*
 - *Try to speed things up*
 - *Bring in ancillary resources (i.e., DCF nurse, supervisors, district attorney)*
 - *Communicate with law enforcement*

DCF Disposition Options

- Family support (~94% of cases)
- Custody to other family members
- Emergency removal – 48 hour hearing
- Foster care – requires court order
- Termination of parental rights (rare)

Summary

- The law *requires* us to report whenever child maltreatment – abuse or neglect – is suspected
- 51A *initiates* a process
- BMC CPT will follow up with DCF
- *Page CPT at any time—these cases are not easy*

Questions?



THANK YOU!