Table 1

Specific indicators of abuse/neglect

Physical

- Facial bruising
- Pattern bruising: fingertip-shaped bruising, belt or tool marks
- Unusual site: ears, genitalia, back
- Burns: genitalia, face and head. Depth, apparent absence of withdrawal from heat
- Bites: human crescent shape, rarely tear
- Fractures: incidental finding or past fracture on survey
- Poisoning or suffocation: consider fabricated or induced illness

Emotional

- Infants: failure to thrive, frequent infections, developmental delay
- Preschool: developmental and physical delay, aggressive behaviour changes
- School: short/light, poor hygiene, immature, low self-esteem, destructive behaviour, soiling
- Teenager: delayed puberty, school failure, truancy, risk-taking behaviour

Sexual

- Disclosure by child
- Behaviour: sexualised, soiling/enuresis
- Somatic: headache, abdominal pain, insomnia, anorexia, urinary infection
- STIs, pregnancy
- Genital bruising ('love bites' are of particular concern)

Neglect

- Overlap with emotional abuse
- Physical: failure to thrive, poor hygiene, 'deprivation hands and feet' (pink, oedematous)
- Refusal to seek/accept help: withholding treatment, failure to attend appointments
- Children used as carers for other family members