



The  
**CARE**  
P r o g r a m

Child  
Abuse  
Referral and  
Evaluation



## Facts About Child Abuse

In 1997—the most recent year for which statistics are available—child protective service agencies determined that almost one million children were victims of substantiated abuse or neglect. Fifty-six percent of the victims were neglected; 25 percent suffered physical abuse; and about 13 percent were sexually abused. An estimated 967 deaths from abuse occurred, with children under the age of three accounting for 77 percent of these fatalities.\* Because cases of abuse can be hard to prove, several studies suggest that many more children suffer from abuse or neglect than is evident in official statistics.

\*Statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Abuse can be devastating to a child and have an impact on the entire family. In cases in which physical, emotional, or sexual abuse is suspected, the situation is best handled by health care professionals with expertise in this field. Unfortunately, few facilities exist to provide this highly specialized care.

**University Hospital's CARE program**, the only program of its kind in Central New York, provides comprehensive care for children who may have been abused or neglected. The CARE team consists of specially trained physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, and social workers who

work together to search for the social and medical evidence of abuse. Care is provided in a sensitive, supportive, and reassuring environment.

While making no judgments about the possible perpetrators of the abuse, the team works closely with other community services to provide care in the best interests of the child. The CARE team works closely with law enforcement, child protective services, and other community agencies concerned with the welfare of children.

## Special Services

- Sensitive preparation of the child for the medical examination
- Social interview with the child's caretaker
- Emotional assessment of the child
- Medical examination, including video-colposcopy and appropriate lab and x-ray tests
- Referral for other treatment and/or counseling, when indicated
- Follow-up care, as needed
- Medical record documentation that can be used as legal evidence

## Benefits

- Team members have medical expertise in the detection of abuse
- Services are provided promptly and confidentially
- Care is provided in a reassuring, child-friendly environment
- Excellent referral relationships exist with community resources for ongoing counseling
- Education, reassurance, and support to the child and caretakers

## CARE Specialists

Ann Botash, MD  
Nancy Mitchell, CPNP  
Anne Galloway, RN

## Appointments & Information

Please call 315-464-7250.

## Child Abuse Hotlines

Onondaga County 315-422-9701  
New York State 1-800-342-3720

Everyone is encouraged to report any suspicions of child abuse or neglect in order to protect children who may not be able to protect themselves.

## Location

The CARE program is located in the Pediatric and Adolescent Center on the third floor of University Health Care Center, 90 Presidential Plaza, Syracuse, NY 13202.



**University Health Care Center**  
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