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**Management of Medical Neglect**

* **Explain recommendations carefully to the parent/carer.**
* **Where nonadherence is occurring, document the treatment recommendation and clarify again the rationale for the therapy and consider a formal contract with the parents.**
* **Consider using tools available for assessing neglect, as medical neglect may be part of a wider picture which could together reach level of significant harm.**
* **Follow the organisation’s guidance for those not brought to appointments**

**If you feel the child is at risk of significant harm then a referral to Children’s Social Care should be made via a MARF.**

**Medical Neglect vs Noncompliance**

**The distinction between medical neglect and nonadherence is a fine one. Nonadherence is the act of not following medical advice. There may be a good reason (e.g., the wisdom of the patient), or it may simply be a lack of motivation, resources, or understanding.**

**When lack of compliance puts the child at risk of significant harm, it falls into the category of medical neglect.**

**What is Medical Neglect?**

**A parent/guardian’s failure to provide adequate medical care (including dental care) for their child or children. This could involve :**

* **Failure to recognise obvious signs of physical injury, medical illness or mental health issues**
* **Delay in seeking medical care for an acute illness**
* **Ignoring medical recommendations**
* **Bringing the child to a healthcare setting only when they are seriously ill or near death**

**When it comes to those with a chronic illness it may involve missing medical or therapy appointments, not filling medical prescriptions or not giving the appropriately prescribed doses of medication.**

**In order to determine whether a child is being neglected, professionals need to consider:**

1. **Severity – the actual or estimated potential harm as well as the degree of harm involved.**
2. **Likelihood of harm – both the potential medical and psychological ramifications should be considered.**
3. **Frequency – measuring the frequency or chronicity of a problem.**

Medical Neglect in Children & Young People

*Failure to recognize obvious signs of physical injury, medical illness, or mental health*

*Delaying seeking medical assistance for an acute illness*

*Ignoring medical recommendations by a physician*

*Bringing the child to a health care setting only when the child or near death*