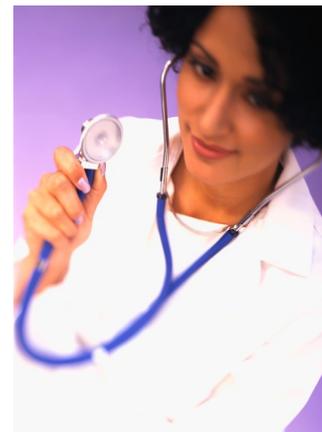




Top Ten Reasons



Why Children and Adolescents Suspected of Being Sexually Abused Need Medical Evaluations

1. To reassure the child and family that the child is healthy
2. To assess the medical needs of the child and to treat injuries, infections, and/or provide prophylaxis
3. To assess safety and intervene to prevent further abuse
4. To assess and address emotional, social, mental health, and developmental needs of the child and family and provide crises intervention
5. To capture spontaneous disclosures
6. To decrease the likelihood of child's recantation by enhancing parental support and awareness
7. To refer for medical, mental health, or social issues
8. To potentially increase the likelihood of perpetrator confession
9. To document evaluation findings
10. To collect forensic evidence