



EMS role is to:

- Document concerns
- Assess and stabilize potentially serious injuries
- Disclose concerns to the appropriate authorities (hospital and law enforcement or appropriate state authorities)

EMS personnel are mandatory reporters of any suspicion for abuse, maltreatment, neglect, or suspected human trafficking or sex trafficking of a minor per A.R.S. §13-3620.A and A.R.S. §13-3212

**B** Primary survey:

- Identify potentially life-threatening issues.
- Refer to [Trauma AG](#) as needed.

**B** Secondary survey:

- Assess physical issues, document any statements made spontaneously by patient
- Avoid extensive investigation of the specifics of abuse.

**B** Notify the following applicable entities:

1. Law enforcement and one of the following:
  - a. Arizona Department of Child Safety [1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445)]
  - b. Adult Protective Services Central Intake Unit [1-877-SOS-ADULT (1-877-767-2385)]  
<https://www.azdes.gov/landingforms.aspx?form=13004>
2. A tribal law enforcement or social services agency for any Native American minor who resides on an Indian reservation

NOTE: Reporting to hospital personnel does not qualify as having fulfilled the mandatory reporting requirement. Leave the investigation to law enforcement.

**B** Transport to appropriate receiving facility.  
Refer to [BLS Transport Threshold AG](#) as indicated

Scenarios that call for a high index of suspicion for abuse in children include:

- Brief Resolved Unexplained Event (BRUE)
- Any bruising on a patient <4 months
- Any bruising on the torso, ears, neck on a patient <4 years



## Education/Pearls

TEN-4-FACESp is a useful acronym to help screen children under 4 years of age with bruising to identify when a bruise is more likely to be caused by abuse than accidental injury. TEN-4-FACESp stands for bruising to the **T**orso, **E**ars, **N**eck, **F**renulum, **A**ngle of the jaw, **C**heeks, **E**yelids or **S**ubconjunctivae, “**4**” represents infants 4 months and younger with any bruise, anywhere, and “**p**” represents the presence of patterned bruising (“TEN-4-FACESp”).

Attention to bruising is an actionable step that we can take to help identify children at risk of physical abuse and potentially improve the outcomes of these young children

# TEN-4-FACESp

Bruising Clinical Decision Rule for Children < 4 Years of Age

TEN

Torso | **E**ars | **N**eck

FACES

Frenulum

Angle of Jaw

Cheeks (*fleshy part*)

Eyelids

Subconjunctivae

REGIONS

4 months and younger

Any bruise, anywhere

INFANTS

Patterned bruising

Bruises in specific patterns like slap, grab or loop marks

PATTERNS

**When is bruising concerning for abuse in children < 4 years of age?**  
 If bruising in any of the three components (Regions, Infants, Patterns) is present without a reasonable explanation, strongly consider evaluating for child abuse and/or consulting with an expert in child abuse.

### See the signs

Unexplained bruises in these areas most often result from physical assault. TEN-4-FACESp is not to diagnose abuse but to function as a screening tool to improve the recognition of potentially abused children with bruising who require further evaluation.

TEN-4-FACESp was developed and validated by Dr. Mary Clyde Pierce and colleagues. It is published and available for FREE download at [luriechildrens.org/ten-4-facesp](http://luriechildrens.org/ten-4-facesp).

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