

**A M E S S A G E
F R O M N C A**

National Children's Alliance has had recent emphasis on improving both access to and the quality of medical evaluations through Children's Advocacy Centers. In the revised standard for medical evaluation, you will note that photodocumentation of exams is the standard of care and that peer review of findings is strongly encouraged (and a new rated criteria). We recognize that can be challenging in many parts of the country where expert consultation and peer review can be difficult to obtain.

To meet that challenge in a cost effective way, the Regional Children's Advocacy Centers and National Children's Alliance have partnered with VisualShare to make that possible irrespective of location through the Telehealth Institute for Child Maltreatment (THICM). This project was spearheaded by the Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center, and much gratitude is owed to their leadership and staff in making this possible. In addition, we thank the child sexual abuse medical experts from around the country who have agreed to consult on this project and conduct the peer reviews.

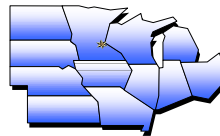
We hope you find this a helpful resource to improve care to the children you serve and strive to achieve the revised standards for accreditation. I strongly encourage each of you in the field to visit the THICM website and see how this service may benefit your center.

Sincerely,



Teresa Huizar
NCA Executive Director

Sponsored by:



Midwest Regional
Children's Advocacy
Center



Northeast Regional
Children's Advocacy
Center



Western Regional
Children's Advocacy
Center



Southern Regional
Children's Advocacy
Center

Usage Terms

The Peer Review aspect of the Institute is not to be utilized for "second opinions" or initial diagnoses. Rather, it is to be utilized for medical peer review of examination findings in sexual abuse cases, to further facilitate accurate diagnoses by medical providers examining children who have been sexually abused.
DISCLAIMER: TeleHealth Institute for Child Maltreatment (THICM) is a service to make child sexual abuse expertise available to all Child Advocacy Center medical providers throughout the United States regardless of location. The service is designed to provide reviews by an expert for educational and quality improvement purposes and is not intended to be used for initial diagnostic or treatment purposes or to serve as a second opinion for a specific case. This service is not a replacement for a consultation or to address issues related to a specific patient.



**Telehealth
Institute for Child
Maltreatment**



**Web-based medical quality
improvement services
enhancing diagnostic
accuracy of child abuse**

WWW.THICM.ORG

What is THICM?

The TeleHealth Institute for Child Maltreatment (THICM) is a technological initiative administered through the Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center. THICM provides *anonymous, HIPAA compliant, internet-based educational and quality improvement services* to medical providers who examine alleged victims of child sexual abuse within Child Advocacy Centers throughout the U.S.



The well being of child sexual abuse victims depends on high quality, consistent medical evaluation techniques and competencies. Provider participation in peer review activities has recently been emphasized. Because such activities can be costly, and accessibility limited in rural geographic areas, THICM was created to bridge this gap.

For more information please visit us at

WWW.THICM.ORG

Program Services

Expert Peer Review:

By registering for expert peer review, you will be utilizing high quality, cutting edge technology to ensure valuable case review; anonymously connecting with a nationally recognized expert peer reviewer; receiving a timely response within 48 hours of case submission and will have the opportunity to give feedback about your review and reviewer.

Online Collaborative Conference Room (OCC) : COMING SOON

The online collaborative conference room (OCC) exists as a collection of HIPAA compliant technologies for real time image, document, video and meeting collaboration, completed entirely online. In essence, the OCC provides online meeting space for multidisciplinary teams to meet and conduct peer review, distance learning, or mentoring activities, regardless of geographic location.

Program Cost

THICM requires no additional equipment or software. Registered users of THICM *pay a nominal fee of \$25* per use, and have the option to pre-pay for multiple uses. By creating a system that is accessible and affordable, medical providers nationwide have access to national experts for peer review and quality improvement practices, regardless of location.

WWW.THICM.ORG

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why should I participate in THICM?

Independent review of examination interpretation is recommended by the National Children's Alliance and in recent literature*. Participation in THICM will provide you a benchmark against which you can measure your level of diagnostic agreement with expert diagnosticians. * *Adams JA; Kaplan RA; Starling SP; Mehta NH; Finkel MA; Botash AS; Kellogg ND; Shapiro RA. Guidelines for medical care of children who may have been sexually abused. J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol;20(3):163-72, 2007 Jun.*

Q: How many cases should I submit to you? You can send images from as many or as few exams as you wish. In order to take full advantage of this quality improvement process we suggest that you send images from at least 10 exams, perhaps 3 normal and 7 abnormal exams, over the course of three years.

Q: Are some types of exam findings more useful than others? Yes. Abnormal pre-pubertal and pubertal female genitalia and abnormal anal images provide the best review experience.

Q: Can I send you images from past exams? Yes

Q: What if the images don't show the exam findings very well? We will not be able to comment on non-diagnostic photographs.

Q. Are the examination interpretations confidential? Yes. The reviewers are blinded to your identity, and you are blinded to their identities.

Q: Will the THICM reviewers make their examination interpretation known to anyone but me ? No. The image review is de-identified. Only you can associate the THICM case with the images.

WWW.THICM.ORG