

**Perplexing presentation (PP) - Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) considered
Alerting signs to possible FII**

- High risk presentation as below
- Over-presentation of a well child
- Unusual medical presentations
- Presentation does not match description given
- Medically unexplained symptoms
- Overanxious/ exaggeration
- Unexpectedly poor response to treatment

Assessment of risk of serious and / or immediate harm

**RED PATHWAY – Probable FII
High risk of harm – eg**

Presentation is a life threatening symptom eg turning blue, fits
Evidence of deception
Evidence of physical actions by carers to produce an illness picture (interfering with reports, specimens, investigations, withholding medication or food, poisoning).

Follow process in Section 10 urgently.

If immediate or potential serious threat to child, take urgent steps to secure safety and prevent further harm; seek advice from Named or Designated professionals. Urgent referral to social care and possibly police. Following referral, discussions must take place with children’s social care/police about who is going to inform the parents and when it is safe to do so.

- **Urgent strategy meeting**
- Consider protection orders, next steps, police investigation, risk to siblings, information sharing with parents.
- Preserve evidence (where available).
- Medical
 - Admit child to hospital urgently (if not inpatient)
 - Review medical management plans.
 - Identify lead paediatrician
 - Escalate to senior staff (consultant, most senior nurse, named / designated professionals)
- Detailed record-keeping / minutes.
- Avoid confrontation with parents.
- Seek consensus as per ‘Multi-professional meeting’ box in amber pathway).
- Caution about raising FII concern with parent(s) pending senior multi-professional agreement because of potential for increased risk of harm/compromise to criminal or safeguarding process.
- Urgent chronology.
- Consider a (further) period of admission with clear guidance.
- Further strategy meeting(s) may be needed.

Depending on outcome, consider whether Health and Education Rehabilitation Plan can be offered to parents

**AMBER PATHWAY (PP)
Medium to low risk of harm**

No clear evidence of high risk (as opposite). Concerns may be suspected but not clear. Concerns are more about carers reported concerns rather than possible induction or actions
Other diagnoses such as parental mental health issues / medical diagnosis may still be possible

Follow Section 11:

This process may take days, weeks or months. Urgency proportionate to degree of risk and likelihood of FII.

Consult senior manager in own agency; identify lead clinician who should consult Named/Designated Doctor.

Establish current status: child’s health and wellbeing (consider diagnoses, admission); parents’ views; child’s view (if old enough)

Multi-professional meeting(s) to reach consensus

Ascertain child’s current state of health and daily functioning:

- Collate all agency involvement/start chronology
- Verify all reported diagnoses
- Identify whether children’s social care involved
- Explore parents’ and child’s views, fears, beliefs, wishes
- Explore siblings’ health and family functioning

Obtain consensus from all professionals involved, including education and children’s social care (if already involved) on the following:

- Child’s current state of health
- Areas of continuing uncertainties
- Nature and level of harm to child

Are the concerns explained?

No - Physical and/or psychopathology is not fully explained and FII remains a concern.

Yes - Physical and/or psychopathology is **fully** explained and FII no longer a concern. Consider other forms of harm.

Health and Education Rehabilitation Plan offered to parents

Parents do not support plan

Referral to social care as physical harm, medical neglect and/or emotional harm, as appropriate. Parents to be informed of referral.

Parents support plan

Rehabilitation proceeding

Long-term monitoring. Can move to red pathway at any point.