

### Potential Benefits to Observing the Interview

- provides information that the medical provider needs to plan for the exam, testing and treatment decisions
- helps to prevent duplication in obtaining history from child and (caregiver).
- assists the medical provider in understanding the relationship between symptoms, timing or contact and presence or absence of findings
- includes the medical provider in the pre-conference interview and as a member of the MDT
- provides opportunity for medical input to the MDT in the decision process of whether exam is needed or not (builds in person team relationships)

## To Observe Or Not To Observe

*Considerations for Whether a Medical Provider  
Should Observe the Forensic Interview Prior to  
Performing the Medical Evaluation*

### Potential Challenges to Observing the Interview

- implies a perceived bias towards exam interpretation
- statements made to medical provider may not qualify for the "exception to hearsay" provision if interview is observed
- medical provider no longer considered "neutral"
- prosecutor's preference; for most teams only team members involved in the investigative process observe the interview
- It is essential to note that every person who views the interview becomes a witness and could be called to trial for the prosecution and/or defense

