

custody, or criminal issues. Careful review of the medical records and preparation for court are needed to provide an educated, unbiased account of the child's medical condition and diagnoses.

The prevention of child maltreatment is a great challenge. There are a few partially successful primary prevention programs. Visiting home nursing programs that begin during

pregnancy and continue through early childhood may reduce the risk of abuse and neglect. Physician training in screening for risk factors in parents has shown to be supportive of families and reduce child maltreatment in some populations. Ultimately physicians always need to remain cognizant of the diagnosis, aware of their professional mandates, and willing to advocate on behalf of these vulnerable patients.

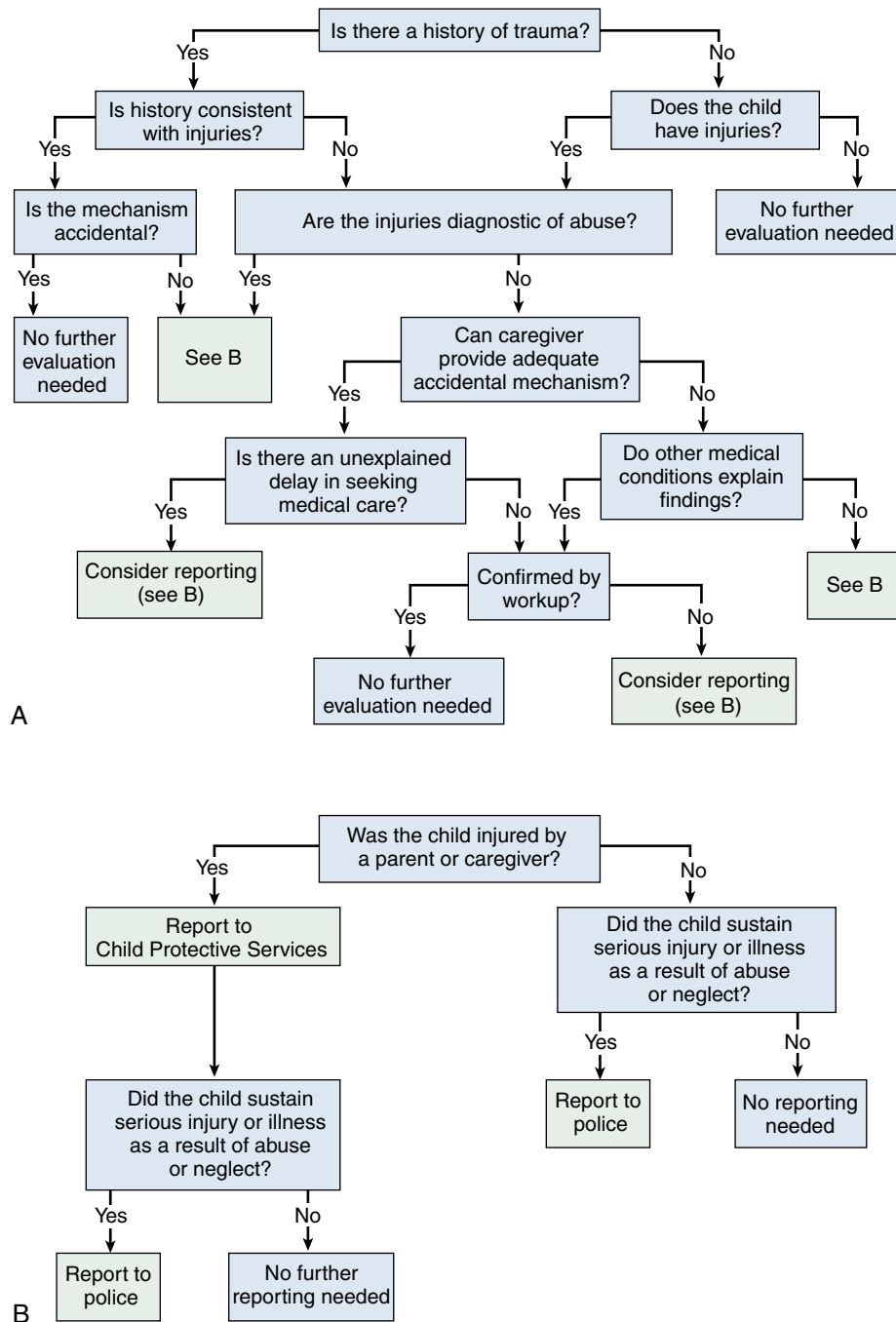


Figure 22-5 A, Approach to initiating the civil and criminal investigation of suspected abuse. **B**, Reporting to Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement or both in child abuse cases. CPS reports are required when a child is injured by a parent, by an adult acting as a parent, or by a caregiver of the child. The police investigate crimes against children committed by any person, including parents or other caregivers. (From Christian CW: *Child abuse*. In Schwartz MW, editor: *Clinical Handbook of Pediatrics*, ed 3, Baltimore, 2003, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, pp 192–193.)