

Duty of Health Professionals to Report Abuse Against A Girl Under 18 – FGM

Your healthcare professional, social worker and teacher is obliged under the law to report female genital mutilation (FGM) in a girl under 18.

This is no different from any other obligation on healthcare professionals to report abuse against children. FGM is child abuse so the healthcare professional must make a report to the police.

If a professional finds that a girl has had FGM, they will tell you that they are going to make a report and they will discuss what this means for you. They may speak further with you depending on the circumstances.

When the police receive this information, they will speak with NHS and children's services professionals to determine what should be done, given the circumstances of the individual case.

Please ask questions and let your healthcare professional know.

All women and girls affected FGM can self-refer to Elizabeth Gareth Anderson Wing UCLH Tel 0203 4475241 or 07944241992

FGM – Supporting Girls Information for Patients

What is FGM

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genital organs are deliberately cut or injured, but where there is no medical reason for this to be done. It is very painful and dangerous and can seriously harm women and girls' health. Some girls die from blood loss or infection as a direct result of the procedure. Women who have had FGM may have mental health conditions as a result, and are likely to have difficulty in giving birth.

FGM can be carried out on girls of all ages but may be more common between the ages of 5 and 10. It can be known as the female circumcision, cutting or by other terms such as cutting sunna, gudniin, halalays, tahur, megrez and khitan among other names.

FGM Causes Serious Harm To Girls And Women, Including:

- Constant pain
- Repeated infections which can lead to infertility
- Bleeding, cysts and abscesses
- Problems passing urine or incontinence
- Depression, flashbacks, self-harm
- Labour/childbirth problems which can lead to death

FGM Is Illegal

FGM is illegal. Is child abuse and must never be carried out either here or abroad. It is also illegal to arrange for your child to be taken aboard for the procedure or to help someone to carry out FGM in any way. Anyone found guilty of this faces up to 14 years in prison and may also be made to pay a fine.

What help can you get?

If you have had FGM you can get help and support from your GP or other healthcare professionals.

If you are concerned about any girl who may be at risk of FGM, tell a health professional or phone the NSPCC helpline on 0800 028 3550 24rs a day.

If you are worried that you may be pressured by your family or community to have FGM performed on your daughter, ask your GP, Health Visitor, social worker, teacher, Midwife or other Health Professional for help.

NHS Specialist Services for Female Genital Mutilation LONDON AREAS

1. African Women's Clinic - University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

FGM clinic and an affiliation with the urogynaecology service. Links with the paediatric clinic running on Fridays, and plans to do a joint clinic monthly in future.

Address:

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Wing of UCLH
Lower Ground Floor
25 Grafton Way London, WC1E 6DB
Dr Lata Kamble - FGM Clinical Lead and
Obstetrician
Mrs Yvonne Saruchera - Midwifery Lead
Dr Sohier Elneil - Urogynaecology Support
Dr Hodes - Lead Paediatrician

Open: Run three clinics every month at present. They have a procedure list which happens on the first Monday of the month and the other clinics take place on the third and fourth Mondays of the month.

e-mail: For complex cases
sohier.elneil@uclh.nhs.uk or
fgmsupport@uclh.nhs.uk

Telephone: 07944 241992

For Dr Hodes contact 02034475241 or email
Kirsty.phillips2@uclh.nhs.uk and
renara.begum@uclh.nhs.uk for an appointment.

Dr Hodes takes referrals when there is a suspicion of FGM or history of having had FGM in her clinic on Fridays.

2. Acton African Well Woman Clinic : Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

A partnership project funded by Ealing Hospital NHS Trust community services and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. This service is for pregnant and non-pregnant women. They aim to see women within two weeks of contact. They provide counselling and support for women with FGM, a de-infibulation service for women with Type III FGM using local anaesthetic and a referral service for women with complex perineal trauma as a result of FGM.

Address:

Acton Health Centre 35 – 61 Church Road London, W3 8QE

Open: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Project Lead – Juliet Albert (Specialist FGM Midwife)

Health Advocates - Deqa Dirie and Mushtag Kahin
Counsellor - Melanie Mendel

Telephone: 07956 001 065 or 0208 383 8761 or
07730970738

3. Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital African Well Woman Clinic Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

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Address:

Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS

Open: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Telephone - 07956 001 065 or 0208 383 8761 or
07730970738

Health Advocates - Deqa Dirie and Mushtag Kahin
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