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PMG Safeguarding Policy: Female Genital Mutilation

Female Genital Mutilation: This is a procedure whereby a female's genitals are deliberately cut, injured or sutured with no medical indication. It was previously called female circumcision, but as a female does not have a foreskin to remove this outdated term is no longer used.

- It is illegal to perform FGM in the UK and is regarded as child abuse.
- Sadly young girls between the ages of infancy to 15 still undergo this procedure.
- There is a high risk period, called "cutting season", when pre-pubertal girls are taken to a country performing FGM, as part of a cultural belief/ practice. Any parent/ guardian enabling/ allowing a child to undergo FGM is committing child abuse and can result in upto a 14yr prison sentence.
- For more information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>

All Clinicians have a duty to protect and report any cases of FGM.

- Any child felt to be at risk must be protected immediately.
 - o Inform Safeguarding Lead of ANY historic or recent events as there is a duty to report all cases of FGM.
 - o Inform Safeguarding Lead and escalate to Children's Safeguarding team of any child at risk or recently exposed to FGM procedure- as this is CHILD ABUSE.

There is a wealth of information and support for patients and victims of FGM on the nhs website, but additionally reporting information:

Help is available for patients/ concerned relatives if you have had FGM or you're worried that you or someone you know is at risk.





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- If someone is in immediate danger, contact the police immediately by dialling 999.
- If you're concerned that someone may be at risk, contact the NSPCC helpline on 0800 028 3550 or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk.

Local Support Services for Patients with historic FGM

Our main local service for FGM support is in Leeds:

<https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/services/fgm-blossom-clinic/>

Blossom Clinic Details

Monday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Tuesday 10.00am to 6.00pm

You can speak to our advocate and book an appointment by telephoning: [07824 580988](tel:07824580988)

Email: leedsth-tr.blossomclinic.fgm@nhs.net

NSPCC FGM helpline – Telephone: [0800 028 3550](tel:08000283550)

Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Safeguarding Audit/ Governance Process

Medical Administrative Teams run regular data quality checks and as part of the new patient records coding, also identify and report any cases of FGM to the Safeguarding Lead for escalation.

- See Med Admin SOP.

Safeguarding Lead Reporting Process (for Safeguarding Lead)

Email received each quarter to request any new data to report.

Cases can be reported contemporaneously.

If you have not seen any patients you **DO NOT HAVE TO SUBMIT A NIL RETURN.**

FGM Incident Reports are available via [Female Genital Mutilation – NHS Digital](#).





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The link to the submission portal is <https://clinicalaudit.hscic.gov.uk/>.

FGM collection information is available here

<https://www.digital.nhs.uk/fgm> and [FGM Datasets information for Health professionals and NHS organisations - NHS Digital](#)

Please feel free to contact us if you require any further information and **thank you** for your continued participation and support.

Regards,
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