

# Messages for practice:

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

### RISK FACTORS

- Position in family and level of integration into UK society.
- Any girl born to a woman who has been subject to FGM
- Any girl whose sister has already undergone FGM
- Any girl withdrawn from personal, social health, education;
- Age varies but majority between 5-8 years
- Children going out of country for prolonged periods.

### DEFINITION

FGM is a procedure that includes partial or the total removal of the external female genital organs for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. The practice is medically unnecessary, extremely painful and has serious health consequences

### PRINCIPLES

- Safety and welfare of child paramount
- FGM is illegal in the UK
- Not to be decided as a matter of personal belief
- Agencies to act in accordance with UN Convention on the Rights of a Child

## F G M

A form of child abuse + violence against women and girls and should be dealt with as part of child/adult protection procedure.

### CONSEQUENCES OF FGM

#### Short Term

- Severe pain
- Haemorrhage
- Wound infection (blood born virus Hep B HIV)
- Urinary retention
- Emotional/psychological shock
- Injury to organs/surrounding tissue
- Death

#### Long Term

- Chronic vaginal pelvic infections
- Difficulties with menstruation
- Chronic urinary infections
- Scarring, cysts, possible infertility
- Complication in childbirth
- Pain during sex; loss of sensation
- Psychological/mental health problems



### LEGISLATION

- FGM is illegal in the UK under the FGM Act 2013
- A person is guilty of an offence if they excise, or mutilate the whole or any part of a girl's/woman's genital organs.
- It is an offence to assist a girl/woman to mutilate her own genitalia.
- It is an offence to assist FGM to take place even outside the UK.

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## ACTION FLOWCHART

