

7 August 2019

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Dear colleagues,


In a recent joint letter from the NHS England and NHS Improvement Lead for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the national Police Chief Council lead for Honour Based Abuse and the CPS Chief Crown Prosecutor Lead for Honour based abuse, the legal position was reiterated with regard to re-infibulation and piercing. It was a reminder for GPs and primary care clinicians to be 'alive' of FGM related issues that statistically are more common in the summer months.

The letter (attached) contains helpful statistics highlighting the issues and then sets out the legal position and reporting requirements:

1. There is a mandatory obligation to record identified or disclosed cases of FGM on the FGM Enhanced Dataset
2. There is a mandatory obligation to report (via local safeguarding referral pathways) any identified or disclosed cases of FGM that give rise to significant concerns, risk or harm to the individual or immediate family members
3. Any identification of or disclosure by a child (under 18 year old) requires mandatory recording and reporting to be done
4. Genital re-infibulation is a Type IV example of FGM
5. Mandatory recording onto the FGM Enhanced Dataset is required for ALL cases of identified or disclosed re-infibulation.
6. Some historical cases (e.g. pre-arrival to the UK many years ago of older women) may not require reporting and hence there will be no need for safeguarding processes to be followed.
7. Re-infibulation that has happened recently, (in or out of the UK), is much more likely to have significant safeguarding concerns towards the individual and / or associated female family members. These cases need to be assessed on a case by case basis, but ALL will need mandatory recording and careful consideration for reporting via a local safeguarding referral.
8. Any child presenting with a re-infibulation will require recording and reporting via the FGM enhanced dataset and safeguarding referral processes respectively.
9. Genital piercing is a Type IV example of FGM (WHO classification)
10. GPs must reflect upon this classification when recording genital piercing cases on the FGM Enhanced Dataset.

Accountable Officer: Jane Milligan
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Dr Jagan John, Barking and Dagenham Clinical Commissioning Group
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11. Any Genital piercings performed on the following women / girls are likely to have associated safeguarding concerns and should therefore be mandatorily reported through the local safeguarding processes.

- a. Any Under 18 year old girl with piercings
- b. Any women who did not consent to the piercing
- c. Any women who have had ritual, tradition or custom genital piercings

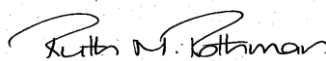
The letter concludes with a number of helpful websites where you may wish to gain further information,

Thank you for your extra vigilance and please share these letters with your Surgery colleagues,

Yours sincerely



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Safeguarding Barking & Dagenham
and Havering CCGs



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