Female Genital Mutilation
Advice for Parents

FGM is an extremely harmful practice with devastating health consequences for girls and women. Some girls die from blood loss or infection as a direct result of the procedure.

If you suspect a girl has undergone or is at risk of FGM

Call Children’s Social Care (020) 8871 6622
or (020) 8871 6000 (after hours)
and the Metropolitan Police 101
If a girl is at immediate risk call 999

St. George’s Healthcare
NHS Trust

Wandsworth
Clinical Commissioning Group

Wandsworth Council
(020) 8871 6437
www.wandsworthfgm.org.uk

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FGM has harmful consequences. There are no health benefits

FGM can kill - It’s an extremely harmful practice and places a girl at risk of devastating health consequences. Some girls can die from blood loss or infection as a result of the procedure.

Some examples of immediate health risks:
• Severe pain and shock
• Severe blood loss
• Infection
• Tetanus
• Difficulty in passing urine
• HIV transmission
• Life changing injuries or death

Long-term implications include:
• Urinary and menstrual problems
• Recurring risk of infection, including: cysts, abscesses, ulcers, chronic pelvic infections and urinary tract infections
• Pain during sex and lack of pleasurable sensation
• Psychological consequences, including: post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and severe depression

Female Genital Mutilation can affect a girl’s future relationships and may require her to undergo surgery. Women who have undergone FGM are also likely to experience difficulty in childbirth.

What to expect from your GP, Health Visitor and child’s school

• You will be asked by your health professional at GP surgeries and maternity services if you have FGM or if you intend to perform FGM on your daughter. The Department of Health requires this information to be recorded.
• Your health professional or child’s school can provide you with information about FGM.
• Your child’s school will ask you about FGM if you are travelling to a country where FGM is practised.
• You can access any of the services for FGM on your own, or you can be referred by your GP.
• If FGM is suspected, medical and school staff are legally required to report it and follow child protection procedures.

Types of Female Genital Mutilation

Type 1: “Clitoridectomy”
This can involve either removing the clitoris or the clitoral hood.

Type 2: “Excision”
This involves the removal of the clitoris and inner lips of the vagina.

Type 3: “Infibulation”
This involves cutting the clitoris, inner and outer lips of the vagina and sewing or sealing them together, leaving only a small opening.

Type 4: “Other”
All other harmful practices for non-medical purposes including pricking, piercing, cutting, scraping and burning of female genitalia.