

## NHSGGC Care Pathway for Revision of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Lead Manager:	Corporate Inequalities Team Manager
Responsible Director:	Director of Corporate Planning and Policy
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1. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde recognise the physical and psychological harm caused to women and girls as a result of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or 'cutting'.
2. Health service staff are well placed to facilitate and respond to disclosures of FGM. They can:
  - a. Provide information about the law on FGM in Scotland and the possible health consequences of FGM.
  - b. Help survivors access services and offer support and care to mitigate the physical and psychological consequences of FGM
  - c. Assess risk of potential exposure to FGM and take appropriate action to protect women and children from being 'cut'.
  - d. Offer survivors of FGM the possibility of having a clinical intervention and where appropriate make a referral into NHSGGC revision service.
3. FGM revision may sometimes be clinically referred to as deinfibulation and is sometimes referred to as 'opening' when discussing with FGM survivors.
4. This pathway provides guidance for health staff to assist them in referring a woman who has experienced FGM into gynaecological services for the purpose of assessment for revision of FGM she has undergone in the past.
5. Referrals into revision service are most likely to be made by staff from the following Acute Services:

- a. Acute Emergency Services
- b. W&C Directorate (Obstetrics and Gynaecology services)

and from the following services within HSCPs

- c. Asylum Health Bridging Team
- d. Sandyford Sexual Health Services
- e. Children and Family Services
- f. Mental Health/ Trauma Services
- g. GP services

6. Referral procedures have been integrated into FGM identification and care pathways within Acute Emergency Services and within Women and children Directorate.
7. Pathways for accessing FGM revision service will be made known to community groups and third sector organisations used by women potentially affected by FGM to facilitate uptake of this service.

## **8. What happens following a referral?**

Following referral gynaecological services will

- i. Contact the woman safely<sup>1</sup> to offer a face to face appointment. Consultant Gynaecologist or Consultant Plastic Surgeon as appropriate carries out assessment.
- ii. Explain options, agree action and follow on care plan to patient. Undertake risk assessment of woman and other female family members and take action if risk is identified e.g. report to child protection.
- iii. Record intervention in medical record and on FGM Revision database.
- iv. Inform GP/ Midwife/ Health Visitor (as appropriate) of outcome of referral

## **9. Monitoring use of revision services.**

Provide anonymised data about referrals and outcomes to Corporate GBV lead on quarterly basis in order to monitor need and trends.

## **10. Support for implementation**

Training and information will be provided to ensure staff are equipped with necessary skills and knowledge to ensure compliance with the pathway. See

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<sup>1</sup> Practitioners should ensure that any communication with the women is carried out in a way that minimises risk of harm to her from a partner, family or community member who may oppose her decision to seek revision for FGM.

Appendix 1 for information about training and guidance currently available to staff and specialist support services for women.

## APPENDIX 1

### Support Organisations

NHSGGC staff can refer women to any of the following organisations for additional information or specialist support:

- Dignity Alert Research Forum (DARF): [www.darf.org.uk/](http://www.darf.org.uk/)
- Roshni: <http://www.roshni.org.uk/>
- Shakti Womens Aid: <http://shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/>
- Saheliya: <http://www.saheliya.co.uk/>
- Hemat Gryffe: <http://www.hematgryffe.org.uk/>
- Amina: <http://www.mwrc.org.uk/>

### Guidance, Information and Training Materials

The Women's Support Project have produced a range of Materials which can be accessed at:

- [Womens Support Project](#)
- [FGM Aware](#)
- [NHS England eLH module on FGM](#)

### Other Useful Links

- [NHS Inform](#)
- [Education Scotland FGM Resource](#)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection](#)
- [Royal College of Nursing resource for nursing and midwifery practice](#)
- [NSPCC](#) (including helpline number 0800 028 3550)
- [UK Government FGM Resource Pack](#) - resource will contain reference to policies and procedures in England and Wales
- [FGM Training Resource](#) – this resource contains reference to policies and procedures in England and Wales but is still a very useful training resource for practitioners based in Scotland.  
'Freedom' App from Freedom Charity available from the APP store for download to mobile smart phones.

The above information is drawn from the Scottish Government's website <http://onescotland.org/> contains information about national developments to counter FGM and resources and supports available to survivors and service providers. Go to <http://onescotland.org/equality-themes/gender-equality/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/> for details.