**Female Genital Mutilation**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. It is a form of child abuse and violence against women.

From 31 October 2015, a mandatory reporting duty has been introduced which requires **all health professionals** in England and Wales to make a report to the police where, in the course of their professional duties, they either:

* are informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
* observe physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 and they have no reason to believe that the act was necessary for the girl’s physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth (see section 2.1a for further information).

For health professionals, failure to comply with the duty may be considered through fitness to practise proceedings by the regulator with whom the professional is registered.

For further information please contact your Designated Nurse/Doctor or Named GP.

**Additional resources:**

[Quick guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472691/FGM_guidance.pdf) – a 2-page summary of the duty including a process flowchart

[Poster](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472690/FGM_poster.pdf) – a poster for health organisations to display about the duty

[Training slides](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472693/FGM_training_package.pdf) – a training presentation, organisations can use to help them deliver 10 – 15 minute updates to staff to explain the duty

[Video interviews](http://www.nhs.uk/video/Pages/fgmguidelines.aspx) with Vanessa Lodge, NHS England National FGM Prevention lead

[information leaflet](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472694/FGM_leaflet.pdf) for patients and their families which professionals can use to help when discussing making a report to the police.

The website for written materials is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-mandatory-reporting-in-healthcare>

The video can also be found at [www.nhs.uk/fgmguidelines](http://www.nhs.uk/fgmguidelines)

Please access these links and download the materials.