FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)
Mandatory Reporting Duty

Are you concerned that a child may have had FGM or be at risk of FGM?

- The child/young person has told you that they have had FGM
- You have observed a physical sign appearing to show your patient has had FGM
- Her parent/guardian discloses that the girl has had FGM
- You consider the girl to be at risk of FGM. To consider what action to take. Refer to the DH FGM safeguarding and risk assessment guidance

Mandatory reporting duty applies
Any professional who initially identified FGM should:
- Contact the Police on telephone 101
- Make a referral into Children's Services - Children's Access Point telephone 01325 406222

A referral to Children's Services may not be required at this point, however please refer to DSCB Child Protection Procedures for further guidance.

Immediate response required for identified girl or another child/other children

Police and Children's Services take immediate action as appropriate

Assessment of Case: Multi-agency safeguarding meeting convened in line with DSCB Child Protection Procedures to include social care, police and health as a minimum

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Remember to:
- Record all decisions/actions
- Be prepared for a police officer to call you back
- Best practice is to report before close of play next working day
- Update your organisations' safeguarding lead
- You will have to provide: girls name; her DOB and address; your contact details and that of our safeguarding lead

Health Professional (with relevant paediatric competencies) lead on the assessment of the health needs of the child and must follow the Department for Health guidelines.
The assessment (with consent) may consider the need for:
- Referral for genital examination using colposcope to the designated service in your area
- General health assessment (physical and mental health)
- Treatment and/or referral for any health needs identified (whether related to FGM or not)
- Include assessment of presence/absence of additional safeguarding concerns, and document and act accordingly

Children's Social Care and the Police to develop an appropriate pathway. This is likely to consider:
- Use of FGM Protection orders
- Whether a care plan or other safeguarding response is required
- If a safeguarding response is required for siblings/family members/others identified through the contact
- Referral to community/third sector
- If there is a need for a criminal investigation

If a girl appears to have been recently cut or you believe she is at imminent risk, act immediately – this may include phoning police on 999.

REMEMBER: Mandatory reporting is only one part of safeguarding against FGM and other abuse.
Always ask your organisation's safeguarding lead if in doubt.