

Reviewing the Referral

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- Are the family already known to social care?
- Be mindful of language and communication barriers, including literacy, learning disabilities, cultural considerations and English as a second language. (See Appendix 3 for local terminology for FGM)
- Research the background of the girl/woman (when known) to gain a better understanding of their culture, ethnicity, religion, gender roles and FGM prevalence. (Please see Appendix 4 for a prevalence map or visit <http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/world-fgm-prevalence-map/>)
- Be aware that sometimes, FGM may not be the main presenting concern. It may be only one concern amongst a web of complex issues.
- If the referral has been made based on a disclosure or visual identification of FGM on a girl (under 18), please ensure mandatory duty to report (Appendix 2) has been complied with.

Medical Examinations

- Where it is suspected that a female child under 18 has undergone FGM, a medical examination of that child should be undertaken as soon as possible, by a trained paediatrician and in line with your local authority safeguarding procedures.
- A medical examination should be undertaken if there has been a verbal disclosure that FGM may have taken place or if FGM has been visually seen on a girl. If there are no trained FGM paediatricians within your Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in your local authority, children can be referred for a medical examination at University College London Hospital (UCLH), where there is a specialist FGM clinic for children, with trained FGM paediatricians. A referral form can be found [on our Knowledge Hub](#).

Practical Advice

- If you need to book an interpreter inform them that you will be talking about FGM and obtain her views on the subject to ensure she does not agree with the practice.
- Ensure that you use a trained female interpreter*, (preferably the same interpreter for every visit) who speaks the same language and dialect as the girl/ family. Do not use other family or community members to interpret.
- Do not assume that families from practicing communities will want their girls/women to undergo FGM.