

# Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Helping you to protect girls



**Information for patients**  
Maternity Services



**Sheffield**  
Clinical Commissioning Group



**PROUD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



## Protecting girls with a family history of FGM

If a health professional knows that women and girls in your family have had female genital mutilation (FGM), this means your expected baby has a family history of FGM. If your baby is a girl, this information will be recorded on your daughter's healthcare record, and also as part of her electronic healthcare record using the FGM Information Sharing system.

When your daughter is treated in the future, this information will be made available securely and confidentially to the health professionals who will treat her. This information will help health professionals to work with you to care for your daughter and protect her from harm throughout her childhood.

Before recording this information in your daughter's record, a healthcare professional will discuss this with you and explain what it means and how it will be used. They may speak further with you depending on the circumstances.

Please ask questions and let your healthcare professional know if you require support or translation from an independent interpreter.

## FGM process in Sheffield

As part of the Sheffield Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Strategy (July 2018) your health professional will ask you a series of questions that will form an assessment of risk to you or your female family members. Your information will then be shared confidentially with a multi-agency panel of professionals who will, based on your answers, determine whether your family are at significant and/or immediate risk of this being undertaken.

The outcome of the panel will only be shared with your health professional and GP unless significant risks are identified.

If your health professional identifies an immediate risk then they are required to make an urgent referral to Children's Social Care. The purpose of the referral is to ensure your family have the support needed to protect girls.

It is also a legal requirement for any girl under the age of 18, who is identified as having FGM to be reported to the police.

If you are worried that you may be pressured by your family or community to have FGM performed on your daughter, ask your GP or healthcare professional for help or contact:

- ASHIANA **0114 244 5740**
- NSPCC helpline **0800 028 3550**





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