



Medical Examination for FGM

Good Practice



Developing excellence
in response to FGM and
other harmful practices

uclh



Introduction to this book...

This book has been designed to help parents/carers and girls understand what will happen when they attend a medical examination to see if there are signs (evidence) that the girl in the family has been cut/undergone female genital mutilation (FGM).

The pictures provide examples of what can be expected on the day although each family is treated as unique, and the examination will be tailored to fit every girl's needs.

The examination is non-intrusive and the girl will NEVER be completely undressed as she will always have some clothes on.

If you have any questions about the day or any concerns please ask your National FGM Centre support worker or your social worker.

Faces have been pixelated to maintain the confidentiality of the actors in these pictures.

Arrival

A member of staff at the clinic will meet the girl and parents/carers and help them feel at ease.



Older children can use a play station



Member of staff encouraging the patient to play with a doll using the medical equipment that will be used.



Consent

***Fraser competence** is a term used to decide whether a child (under 16 years of age) is able to consent to his or her own medical treatment, without the need for parental permission or knowledge. Parental consent is sought if the young person is not Fraser competent.



Doctor explaining the examination to the parents/carers, answering questions and asking for written consent



If the girl is Fraser competent*, she may sign her own consent.



Parents can stay throughout the examination.

Pre-Checks

A health professional will carry out health checks such as height, weight and urine.



Measuring and weighing



Giving a urine sample

Pre-Checks



Patient exploring the examination room and the equipment. This is to ensure she feels comfortable and familiar with the room.

Examination - Head

Further general examinations are carried out by the doctor to assess the girl's general health.



Doctor looking at her throat



Doctor looking at her neck

Examination - Chest



Doctor listening to the heart while the clothes are lifted.

Examination - Tummy



Doctor examining the abdomen while the patient is lying down.



Doctor encourages patient to look at images on ceiling as a distraction



Examination - Genitalia

The examination of the genitalia (private parts) is done with a magnifying light and gentle separation of the labia majora (large lips) with the doctor's gloved hand. This enables a good view of the clitoris. Nothing is put inside and no swabs are taken. With consent, the attached camera means photodocumentation can be included. Any recording is kept as part of the confidential medical record and could be used as evidence in court.



Member of staff and parent present to reassure the girl throughout the examination.

Some older girls may choose to be examined alone.

Results and Goodbye

The doctor and a member of staff will explain the results to the girl and her parents/carers.

