

## **Fact Sheet 06: Indication that FGM may have already taken place<sup>1</sup>**

- A child may spend long periods of time away from the classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems if she has undergone Type 3 FGM
- Noticeable behaviour changes on the girl's return could be an indication that a girl has recently undergone FGM
- Professionals also need to be vigilant to the emotional and psychological needs of children who may/are suffering the adverse consequence of the practice such as withdrawal, depression or distress
- A child may confide in a professional / ask for help
- A child requiring to be excused from physical exercise lessons without the support of her GP
- A girl or woman may have difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may even look uncomfortable.
- A girl or woman may spend longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating. A girl may spend long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems.
- A girl or woman may have frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
- There may be prolonged or repeated absences from school or college.
- A prolonged absence from school or college with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl's return could be an indication that a girl has recently undergone FGM.
- A girl or woman may be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations.
- A girl or woman may confide in a professional.
- A girl or woman may ask for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
- A girl may talk about pain or discomfort between her legs.