

## **Fact sheet 08: Current requirements on NHS staff in reporting FGM.**

It is now mandatory to record FGM in a patient's healthcare record:

Following publication of the Data Standard on 2nd April 2014, it became mandatory for any NHS healthcare professional to record (write down) within a patient's clinical record if they identify through the delivery of healthcare services that a woman or girl has had FGM.

For Acute Trusts from September 2014, it became mandatory to collate and submit basic anonymised details about the number of patients treated who have had FGM to the Department of Health every month. The first report of this anonymised data, reporting on the data from September, was published on 16th October and is available on the Health and Social Care Information Centre website.

There is no requirement to ask every girl and woman whether they have had FGM. The requirement is to record FGM in a patient's healthcare record only if and when it is identified during the delivery of any NHS healthcare. Professionals are reminded to be aware of the risk factors, including country of origin (see multi-agency guidelines for list of countries), and to use their professional judgement to decide when to ask the patient if they have had FGM.

It remains best practice to share information between healthcare professionals to support the ongoing provision of care and efforts to safeguard women and girls against FGM. For example, after a woman has given birth, it is best practice to include information about her FGM status in the discharge summary record sent to the GP and Health Visitor, and to include that there is a family history of FGM within the Personal Child Health Record (PCHR), often called the 'red book'.