

Maternity Services

We're here for you from the very start of your pregnancy through to the birth of your baby and beyond.



African Well Woman Clinic

Advice on women's health issues resulting from the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

African Well Woman clinic is open to all women living in Islington and Haringey and all other boroughs. Care and information is provided by specialist midwives to any woman who has undergone FGM. Interpreters are provided if required. Women with complications which cannot be resolved by our specialist midwives are referred to a consultant.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is defined as any procedure that involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for cultural or non-medical reasons.

FGM is categorised into four types:

- **Type 1** - removal of clitoris and/or prepuce.
- **Type 2** - excision, removal of the clitoris and the labia minora with or without excision of the labia majora.
- **Type 3** - infibulation, narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner and sometimes outer labia, with or without excision of the clitoris (severest form).
- **Type 4** - any other harmful procedure to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, for example pricking, piercing, stretching, incising, scraping and cauterisation.

FGM can have serious implications which can lead to death:

Short term complications include severe pain and shock, broken limbs, haemorrhage and vaginal infections, urine retention, damage to adjacent organs and septicaemia. Long term damage includes infertility, sexual dysfunction, problems with childbirth, and psychological and psychosexual trauma.

The Law

- FGM is a crime in the UK where all types of FGM have been illegal since the Female Circumcision Prohibition Act 1985, Serious Crime Act 2003 and extended powers 2015
- Any girl born into a practising community in the UK is most at risk of FGM. These communities include Kenyan, Somali, Sierra Leonean, Egyptian, Nigerian, Eritrean, Yemeni, Afghani, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani.

Our clinic services include:

- Advice on FGM and other health issues that affect child bearing women,
- counselling,
- antenatal care,
- assessment,
- de-infibulation (reversal),
- post surgery follow-up,
- post-natal follow up,
- referral to other healthcare professionals such as psychotherapist, health visitor and or Gynaecologist.

We run weekly Wednesday clinic from 08:30am to 4:30pm in our Antenatal Clinic.

To book an appointment call: **0207 288 3482**

Antenatal Clinic Level 5, Kenwood Wing, Whittington Hospital, Magdala Avenue, N19 5NF

FGM is illegal and we have a duty to protect women from FGM