

## Equalities impact assessment

Directorate: PEC/SMT

Service: GP practices and contract with Children's Hospital

Piece of work being assessed: Clinical protocol for non medical male circumcision

Name of lead person: Helen Bunter /Paul Harvey

Other partners/stakeholders involved:

Date of assessment: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

<b>Single Equality Scheme strand</b>	<b>Baseline data and research –</b> What is available? What does it show? Are there any gaps? Use both quantitative and qualitative research and user data Include consultation with users if available	<b>Is there likely to be a differential impact?</b> If 'yes', is that impact direct or indirect discrimination?
<b>Gender</b>	This procedure applies only to males. 94% of circumcisions carried out at Sheffield Children's Hospital are for "routine and religious" reasons rather than medical reasons.	Yes – indirect Female genital mutilation is illegal but male circumcision for non-medical reasons is not.
<b>Race</b>	Some African tribes, Pacific Islanders and aboriginal Australians perform circumcision as an initiation rite. It is more common in the USA than in the UK irrespective of race. Although circumcision is linked to religion rather than race (white and Black British Muslims would be circumcised for instance), the Muslim population in Sheffield is almost completely Asian and consequently, this has a racial perspective.	Yes – indirect Covered by Race Relations Act under 'culture'
<b>Disability</b>	No evidence found to indicate that males with disabilities are any more or less likely to be circumcised. Some evidence to show that adult men have suffered trauma and depression as a result of childhood circumcision. (Journal of Health Psychology 7/3, May 2002)	No
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	No link found but some evidence that Gay men may in the future demand circumcision as a method of reducing the likelihood of transmission of HIV	No
<b>Age</b>	More common for children but some adult converts are circumcised.	No

<p><b>Religion/belief</b></p>	<p>Infant circumcision is part of Jewish tradition and is usually carried out by a mohel when the child is eight days old.</p> <p>In Islam it is <b>not</b> compulsory to circumcise (because it is not in the Quar'an) but it is encouraged (because the prophet Mohammed was himself circumcised) and the majority of Muslim boys are circumcised. Circumcision can be carried out at any age up to puberty and must be carried out by medically trained staff (who need not be Muslim themselves). 5% of Sheffield residents are Muslim (2001 census figures). This service is currently available (just under 300 are performed per year).</p> <p>Followers of Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism are against the ritual being carried out for religious reasons.</p>	<p>Yes – the demand for religious circumcision to be carried out by medical practitioners is likely to come from the Muslim community</p>
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## Equalities Impact Assessment Action Plan

Strand	Issue	Action required	How will you measure the impact/outcome?	Timescale	Lead
Gender	Non-medical circumcision of boys is unnecessary and may lead to psychological harm	Currently legal so no action required on the grounds of gender discrimination.	N/A		
Race and Religion/ belief	There is a demand for non-medical circumcision of boys from the Muslim community although there is no religious imperative. This is a cultural matter covered by the Race Relations Act.	Sheffield PCT will continue to fund non-medical circumcisions to ensure the continuing health of Muslim boys, which might otherwise be at risk if the procedure were performed by non medical, lay persons	N/A		