

# SCCI2112 Female Genital Mutilation Risk Indication System (FGM RIS) - Local System Integration **Requirements Specification**

Published 19 October 2016



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Assurance that this information standard meets the requirements of the Act and is appropriate for the use specified in the specification document has been provided by the Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI), a sub-group of the National Information Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Requirements Specification
- Implementation Guidance.

An Information Standards Notice (SCCI2112 Amd 32/2015) has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled versions of these documents can be found on the [NHS Digital website](#). Any copies held outside of that area, in whatever format (e.g. paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

Date of publication: 19 October 2016



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## Glossary of Terms

Term / Abbreviation	What it stands for
Applicable IT System	In the context of this document an 'applicable IT system' refers to any electronic information system that supports the provision of NHS funded healthcare in all clinical settings in England, including general practices, that are accessed by children. In addition, an 'applicable IT system' will use a verified NHS number to link the patient to their electronic health record. The system must also have access to the national Spine either directly or via a Spine Mini Services Provider (SMSP)
ASID	Accredited System Identifier
CAP	Common Assurance Process
Child	A person under 18 years of age
DH	Department of Health
DMS	Domain Message Specification
EIS	External Interface Specification
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FGM RIS	Female Genital Mutilation Risk Indication System
FHIR	Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources
NHS Digital	NHS Digital is the new name for the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC).
IGSoC	Information Governance Statement of Compliance
NHS Spine	The Spine is a collection of national applications, services and directories that support the NHS in the exchange of information across national and local NHS IT systems
ODS	Organisation Data Service
PDS	Personal Demographics Service
RBAC	Role Based Access Control
SCCI	Standardisation Committee for Care Information
SCRa	Summary Care Record Application
The 'Service'	The FGM RIS central core component
Validated NHS number	A validated NHS number is one that has the correct format and passes the NHS number check digit calculation
Verified NHS number	A verified NHS number is one where the patient's identity has been cross-checked using demographic details on the Personal Demographics Service (PDS)

## Supporting Documents

Ref. No.	Reference	Title
1	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/31">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/31</a>	Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
2	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-women-and-girls-at-risk-of-fgm">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-women-and-girls-at-risk-of-fgm</a>	DH Female Genital Mutilation Risk and Safeguarding: Guidance for Professionals (March 2015)
3	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation</a>	HM Government Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (April 2016)
4	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/services-for-women-and-girls-with-fgm">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/services-for-women-and-girls-with-fgm</a>	DH Commissioning services to support women and girls with female genital mutilation (March 2015)
5	FGM RIS Domain Message Specification Available on the Data Developer Network: <a href="https://data.developer.nhs.uk/fhir/fgm-v2-draft-d/Chapter.1.About/index.html">https://data.developer.nhs.uk/fhir/fgm-v2-draft-d/Chapter.1.About/index.html</a>	FGM RIS Domain Message Specification
6	<a href="http://content.digital.nhs.uk/fgmris">http://content.digital.nhs.uk/fgmris</a>	FGM RIS Website
7	Section 5.2 Tracing (PDSPCP-3) <a href="http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/demographics/spineconnect">http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/demographics/spineconnect</a>	NPFIT-FNT-TO-DPM-0647.03 2008-A PDS Compliance Baseline: Tracing - Principles of PDS Usage
8	Chapter 2: Organisational Responsibilities <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2</a>	Department for Education Working together to safeguard children (March 2015)
9	Summary <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice</a>	Department for Education Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (March 2015)
10	Section 11 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/section/11">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/section/11</a>	Children Act 2004
11	Schedule 1 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/schedule/1">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/schedule/1</a>	Data Protection Act 1998
12	NHS Digital Web Site: <a href="http://content.digital.nhs.uk/yourinfo">http://content.digital.nhs.uk/yourinfo</a>	NHS Digital Personal Information Choices
13	NHS Digital Web Site publications: <a href="http://content.digital.nhs.uk/article/2021/Website-Search?q=%22female+genital+mutilation%22&amp;area=both">http://content.digital.nhs.uk/article/2021/Website-Search?q=%22female+genital+mutilation%22&amp;area=both</a>	Experimental Statistics collected via the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Enhanced Dataset (SCCI2026).
14	NHS Digital Web Site: <a href="http://systems.digital.nhs.uk/infogov/iga/resources">http://systems.digital.nhs.uk/infogov/iga/resources</a>	Information Governance Alliance Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016

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# 1 Overview

## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define an Information Standard for an automatic message within all applicable IT systems to alert relevant healthcare professionals when a female child patient is at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Note: All references in this document can be found in the Supporting Documents section above.

## 1.2 Background and Context

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in the UK, as is taking a child abroad to undergo FGM, as legislated in the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 [ref 1]. It is child abuse and a form of extreme harm against women and girls. FGM is medically unnecessary, is extremely painful and leads to severe short and long term physical and psychological consequences. The Government is committed to preventing and ending this harmful practice which violates the rights of girls and women. It is the intention to eradicate FGM in this country within a lifetime.

The Department of Health (DH) in partnership with NHS England has launched a FGM Prevention Programme which aims to improve the NHS response to FGM, increase levels of safeguarding for girls at risk of FGM and provide better subsequent support and care for those that have undergone FGM. The programme is identifying good practice in the current centres of excellence and is rolling this out nationally. This will help clinicians to recognise FGM, or identify the warning signs, and support them to make enquiries which could confirm either a diagnosis of FGM or identify a girl at risk of FGM. The following guidance is already available, DH FGM Risk and Safeguarding: Guidance for Professionals [ref 2], HM Government Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation [ref 3], and DH Commissioning services to support women and girls with FGM [ref 4].

It is estimated that approximately 103,000 women aged 15-49 and approximately 24,000 women aged 50 and over who have migrated to England and Wales are living with the consequences of FGM. In addition, approximately 10,000 girls aged under 15 who have migrated to England and Wales are likely to have undergone FGM. In the period September 2014 to January 2015, over 2,600 patients were treated in the NHS for whom it was newly identified that they had undergone FGM [ref 4, Chapter 1]. The FGM Enhanced Dataset (SCCI2026) is a repository for individual level data collected by healthcare providers in England, including acute hospital providers, mental health providers and GP practices and indicates the prevalence of FGM in England [ref 13].

As part of the FGM Prevention Programme, the DH has commissioned NHS Digital to develop a national FGM Risk Indication System (FGM RIS). The FGM RIS is a new national IT service and an important development to support effective early intervention and ongoing safeguarding of girls potentially at risk of FGM. The FGM RIS is one element of the wider FGM Prevention Programme. The system has been delivered in two stages:

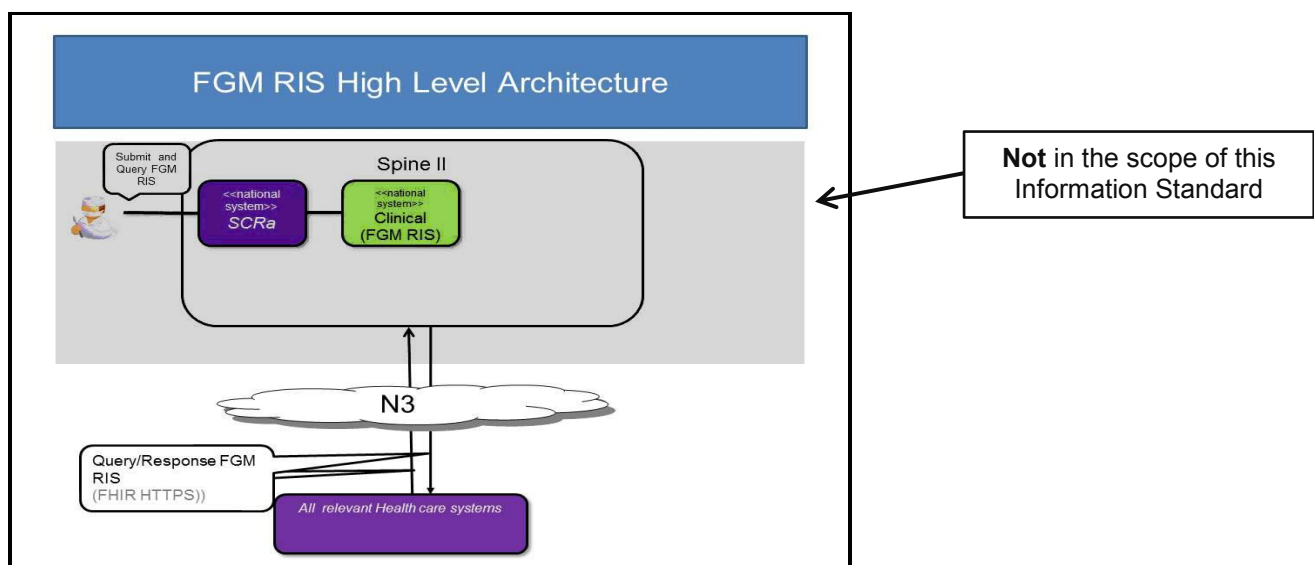
- Stage 1: Delivery of the 'FGM RIS Core Service' - the FGM RIS forms part of the National Spine Architecture. From August 2015, the Summary Care Record application (SCRa) includes new functionality to allow authorised healthcare professionals to add and remove a potential risk of FGM for girls under the age of 18. Some NHS clinicians such as GPs, practice nurses, midwives, school nurses and health visitors are in a unique position to identify girls at risk of FGM and, in the main,

it will be these types of clinicians who will, if they assess a girl to be at risk, update the national (England) FGM RIS system (see the FGM RIS Website for more details [ref 6]).

- Stage 2: Delivery of '*Integration Capabilities*' - to make information held within the FGM RIS core service readily available to all relevant healthcare staff by allowing integration of a '**view only**' capability within local NHS IT systems. This will allow fully integrated local query and response access to national FGM risk information.

**This Information Standard relates to FGM RIS Stage 2; the *Integration Capability* requirements only.**

The following diagram shows the overall architecture for stage 1 and stage 2. The shaded top part of the diagram is **NOT** in the scope of this Information Standard.



In order to ensure that the FGM Prevention Programme delivers improvements to safeguarding girls at risk of FGM, it is essential that when a girl is identified as being at risk of FGM, this is shared with other clinicians within and across organisational boundaries. Currently, this information is not readily available to other clinicians.

The FGM RIS has the capability to allow sharing of previously recorded FGM risk information with local NHS IT systems via a query / response messaging facility.

This Information Standard requires that all local NHS applicable IT systems<sup>1</sup> use this messaging facility to implement an automatic alert message when a girl (under 18 years old) is at risk of FGM, as recorded in the national FGM RIS core service.

This Information Standard is not intended to replace existing working practices and processes but aims to support them by providing additional information which is not routinely available. It supports the overall objectives of the wider FGM Prevention programme in that it is expected to:

- Support clinicians to meet their local safeguarding responsibilities
- Support the prevention of FGM, through the provision of accurate information to all relevant care professionals

<sup>1</sup> See glossary for definition of 'applicable IT system'

- Improve the awareness of risk of FGM
- Eventually help to eradicate the practice.

The FGM RIS is being introduced as a national system in England and the expectation to comply with local and national safeguarding frameworks will mean that professionals should use the system, as it is complementary to such frameworks. This will lead to better outcomes for girls at risk of FGM in society. It will also highlight to all clinicians that they need to consider the potential risk of FGM as and when they provide care, as well as whether they need to take any action in this regard.

The establishment and operation of the FGM Risk Indication System is supported by a Direction<sup>2</sup> made under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Direction was provided by the Department of Health to NHS Digital for consultation and was accepted by the NHS Digital Board on 23 September 2015.

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<sup>2</sup> Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/527906/FGM\\_Risk\\_Indication\\_System\\_Directions\\_-\\_Signed.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/527906/FGM_Risk_Indication_System_Directions_-_Signed.pdf)

## 1.3 Summary

<b>Standard</b>	
Standard Number	SCCI2112
Standard Title	FGM Risk Indication System – Local System Integration
Description	<p>This Information Standard requires all NHS funded healthcare providers to update their local applicable IT system(s) to automatically display an alert message when a female patient under 18 years old is at risk of FGM, as recorded in the FGM RIS core service (a national Spine application).</p> <p>An ‘applicable IT system’ is the term used to describe those local NHS IT systems to which this standard applies and includes any electronic information system that supports the provision of NHS funded healthcare in all clinical settings, including general practices, in England that are accessed by children. In addition, an ‘applicable IT system’ will use a verified NHS number to link the patient to their electronic health record. The system must also have access to the national Spine either directly or via a Spine Mini Services Provider (SMSP).</p> <p>This Information Standard will increase access and improve timeliness of FGM risk information for girls under 18 to all relevant healthcare workers, supporting local safeguarding procedures. It supports the overall objectives of the wider DH FGM Prevention Programme and is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the prevention of FGM</li> <li>• Support clinicians to meet their local safeguarding responsibilities</li> <li>• Improve the awareness of risk of FGM</li> <li>• Help to eradicate the practice.</li> </ul> <p>The Standard forms part of the national solution across England so that whenever and wherever the child is provided with health care, the potential risk of FGM will be known which will lead to better outcomes for children at risk of FGM in society.</p>
Applies to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS funded healthcare providers</li> </ul>
<b>Release</b>	
Release Number	Amd 32/2015
Release Title	Initial Standard
Description	Provision of an automatic alert in local NHS IT systems (applicable IT systems) when a potential risk of FGM has been previously recorded on the FGM RIS core service.
Implementation Date	<p>This Information Standard gives notice to NHS funded healthcare providers in England and their NHS IT system suppliers to move to compliance from 1 March 2017.</p> <p>Deployment will start on a phased basis in line with the FGM RIS Implementation Plan.</p>

Full Conformance Date	31 March 2019
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## 1.4 Scope

### 1.4.1 In Scope

This Information Standard applies to all NHS funded healthcare providers in England. It includes all clinical settings that are accessed by children and funded by the NHS.

The scope requires that all 'applicable IT systems' are integrated with the FGM RIS core service using a query / response message, and display an alert message when the female child patient has been previously assessed as at risk of FGM, as recorded on the FGM RIS.

The local system integration viewing capability will typically be used by<sup>3</sup>:

- GPs and practice nurses
- Midwives
- Health visitors
- School nurses
- Clinicians working in NHS Travel Centres
- Clinicians working in Acute, Community and Mental Health Trusts
- Clinicians working in unscheduled care, such as primary care out of hours services, minor injury units and emergency departments.

### 1.4.2 Out of Scope

The purpose of this Information Standard is to integrate healthcare more closely into statutory safeguarding processes. As such, this Information Standard does not apply to local authorities / social care settings which already have well established processes in place.

Services accessed exclusively by adults are also excluded from this Information Standard as are any services that rely on anonymity for their success (such as sexual health clinics and addiction services).

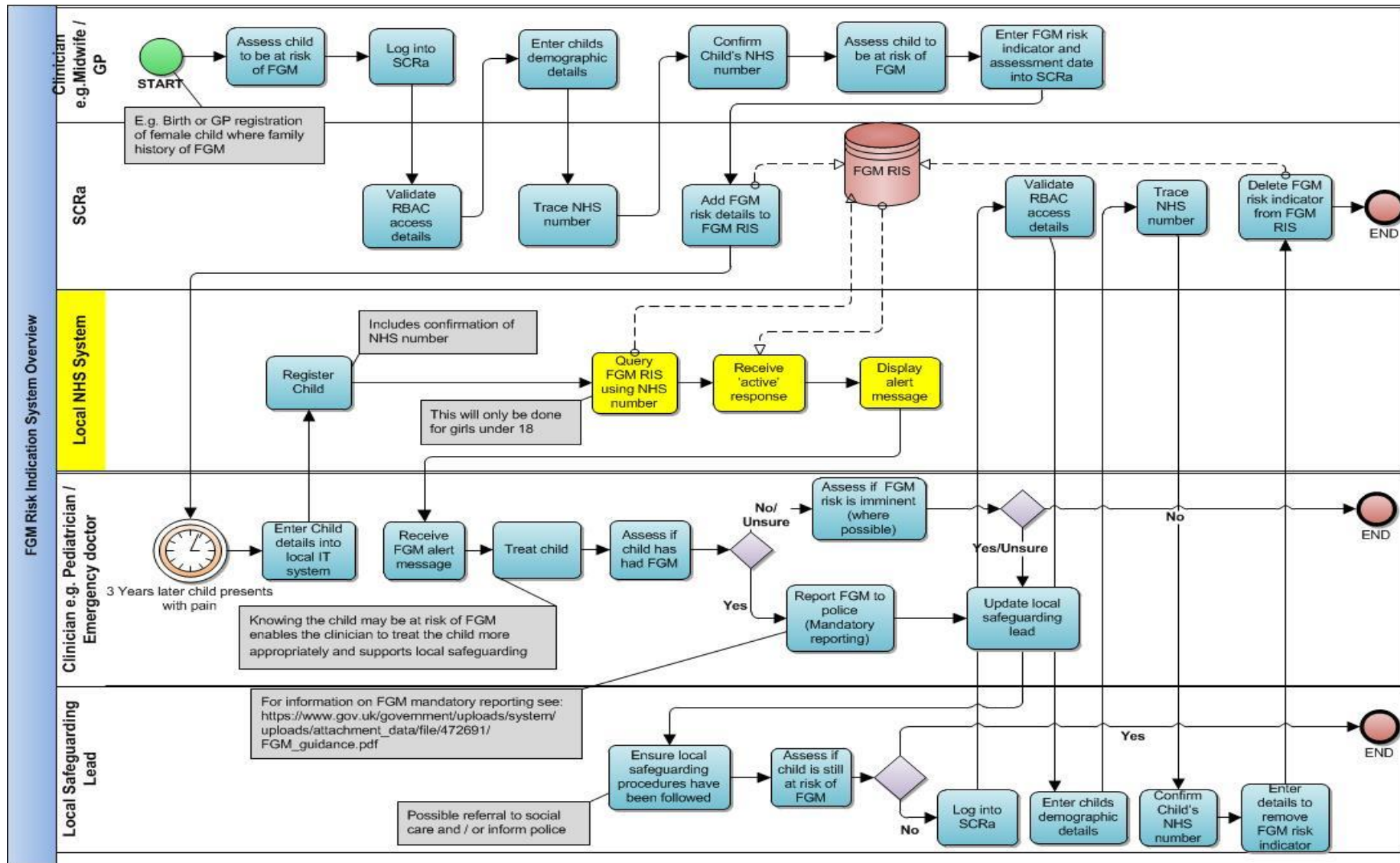
The following are out of scope of the requirements of this Information Standard:

- Functionality contained within the FGM RIS core service within the national spine architecture. This includes the functionality available in SCRa such as the addition and removal of the FGM Risk Indicator.
- Professional safeguarding responsibilities are guided by national / local policy; NHS funded healthcare providers are responsible for determining how the FGM risk information will be used.

### 1.4.3 Context and scope of the Information Standard

The diagram below portrays the scope of the Information Standard in the context of the FGM RIS as a whole. It shows how local system integration is needed to ensure that the FGM risk indicator, once set, is shared with all clinicians wherever and whenever the child is provided with health care, leading to better outcomes for girls at risk of FGM.

<sup>3</sup> Note that midwives, GPs, school nurses and health visitors will also be the main groups of healthcare professionals most likely to set or remove the indicator (via SCRa).



**Key:** ■ The 'swim lane' and specifically the processes shown in yellow are within the scope of this Information Standard

◇ This represents a split in the process flow where in any instance, only one of two paths can be taken, depending upon a condition being true.

## 1.5 Related Standards

Ref #	Reference	Title
1	<a href="#">ISB0149</a>	NHS Number
2	<a href="#">SCCI2026</a>	Female Genital Mutilation Enhanced Dataset

## 2 Requirements

This section describes the requirements that support this Information Standard. The key words **MUST**, **SHOULD** and **MAY** are used as defined in RFC2119<sup>4</sup>, namely:

- **MUST** - This word, or the terms "REQUIRED" or "SHALL", means that the definition is an absolute requirement of the specification.
- **SHOULD** - This word, or the adjective "RECOMMENDED", means that there may exist valid reasons in particular circumstances to ignore a particular item, but the full implications must be understood and carefully weighed before choosing a different course.
- **MAY** - This word, or the adjective "OPTIONAL", means that an item is truly optional.

Details of how the requirements can be monitored and measured are described in the associated conformance criteria.

### 2.1 NHS Funded Healthcare Providers

Reference	Requirement
REQ2112-01	NHS funded healthcare providers <b>MUST</b> read the Information Standard Specification in conjunction with the Implementation Guidance to identify how the Standard is applicable to them.
REQ2112-02	NHS funded healthcare providers <b>MUST</b> review their IT system(s) against this Information Standard to identify and make any changes required to their IT systems and business processes to ensure compliance with the Information Standard.
REQ2112-03	FGM RIS does not replace existing safeguarding processes and procedures. NHS funded healthcare providers <b>MUST</b> review current practices to identify how FGM RIS will support existing functions and clinical practice.

### 2.2 NHS Applicable IT Systems

Reference	Description
<b>FGM RIS Query</b>	
REQ2112-04	Where the local NHS IT system uses Spine RBAC, the activity code B0370 "View Summary Health Records" <b>MUST</b> be used to view the FGM RIS.
REQ2112-05	Where the NHS system connects to the FGM RIS Service via a Spine Mini Services Provider (SMSP) and does not use Spine RBAC, then access to the FGM RIS Service <b>MUST</b> be controlled by local system access controls mapped to the RBAC activity code B0370 "View Summary Health Records".
REQ2112-06	The FGM RIS Query message <b>MUST</b> contain a verified NHS number.
REQ2112-07	The FGM RIS Query message <b>MUST</b> contain an NHS number pertaining to a person under age 18.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

REQ2112-08	The FGM RIS Query message <b>MUST NOT</b> contain an NHS number pertaining to a male.
REQ2112-09	The process to query the FGM RIS service <b>MUST</b> be done automatically once the patient's demographics have been checked and their NHS number confirmed. As such, there will be minimal impact on the user.
REQ2112-10	The local NHS IT system <b>MUST</b> undertake a FGM RIS Query for patients satisfying the above criteria, at the following 'Significant Events': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When a patient registers at a GP practice (once the patient's NHS number has been verified)</li> <li>• At the beginning of any episode of unscheduled care (where the patient can be identified and their NHS number can be verified)</li> <li>• At all clinical appointments including outpatient</li> <li>• Prior to in patient admission and discharge.</li> </ul>
REQ2112-11	The FGM RIS Query message is fully defined in the FGM RIS Domain Message Specification (DMS) [ref 5]. The FGM RIS DMS <b>MUST</b> be used to implement the FGM query message. The information in the query message ensures the following can be determined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The patient to whom the query applies (NHS number)</li> <li>• That it is a FGM query</li> <li>• Who sent the request</li> <li>• When the FGM query was sent</li> <li>• Where the FGM query was requested from.</li> </ul>
<b>FGM RIS Response</b>	
REQ2112-12	Where a current FGM risk for a patient exists on FGM RIS, the applicable IT system <b>MUST</b> automatically alert the user to this.
REQ2112-13	Following the retrieval and confirmation of a patient record including a verified NHS number, there <b>MUST</b> be no further specific action required by a user in order to be alerted if the patient is at risk of FGM.
REQ2112-14	The format of the FGM alert message will be determined locally. However, it <b>MUST</b> include the FGM assessment date and time (supplied in the FGM response message) and it <b>MUST</b> be displayed within the correct patient's record ensuring that there can be no confusion as to which patient the FGM alert message is associated.
REQ2112-15	The FGM alert message <b>MUST</b> be presented in such a way that it cannot be missed by a user.
REQ2112-16	If the FGM RIS response message indicates that no risk exists for the patient, or where an error is returned, there <b>MUST NOT</b> be a message displayed to the user.
REQ2112-17	If the FGM RIS response message returns an error, there <b>MUST</b> be a mechanism for reporting the error to appropriate staff (e.g. The Information Technology department).
REQ2112-18	The FGM RIS Response message is fully defined in the FGM RIS Domain Message Specification [ref 5]. The FGM RIS DMS <b>MUST</b> be used to understand the information contained in the message in order to implement this Information Standard. The information in the response message ensures it can be determined:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether or not a current risk of FGM exists for the patient on FGM RIS</li> <li>• Whether an error has occurred and if so, details of the error</li> <li>• If an FGM risk exists for the patient, the date and time a risk assessment was undertaken</li> <li>• When the response was sent from Spine.</li> </ul>
REQ2112-19	Local systems <b>MUST NOT</b> be enabled to store the risk indicator data locally.

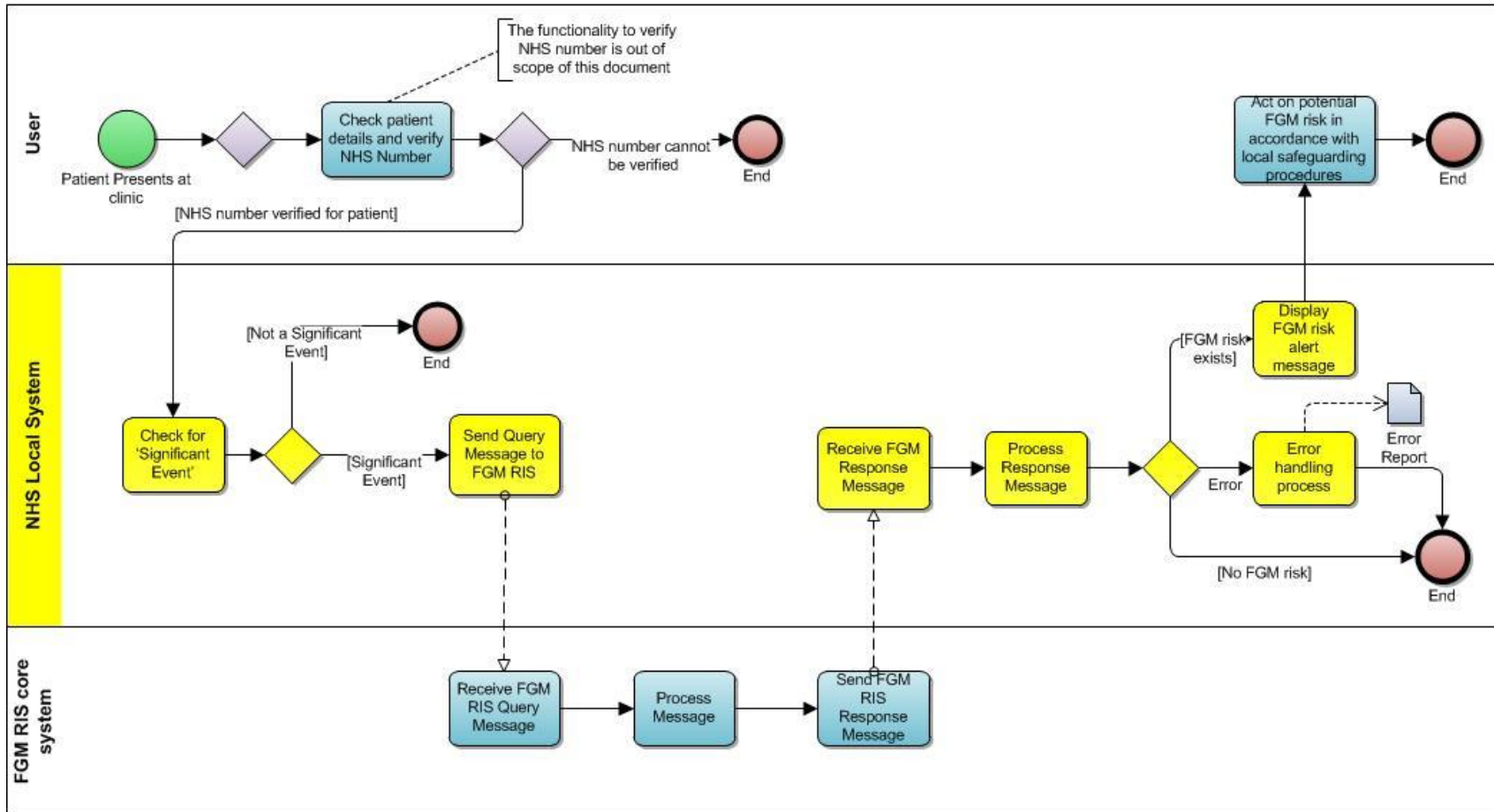
## 2.3 Conformance Criteria

This section describes the tests that can be measured to indicate that the information standard is being used correctly by NHS funded healthcare providers and their local IT system suppliers.

Reference	Criteria
CNF2112-01	All NHS funded healthcare providers <b>MUST</b> conform to this Information Standard by 31 March 2019.
CNF2112-02	NHS IT applicable systems may only gain access to the FGM RIS by going through the Common Assurance Process (CAP) or via an accredited SMSP.
CNF2112-03	FGM RIS access is governed by appropriate role based access control and is permitted to authorised users only.
CNF2112-04	FGM RIS is embedded into existing processes and working practices to support child protection.
CNF2112-05	The findings from an audit or a post-implementation review will indicate that local systems cannot store the risk indicator data locally.

### 3 High Level Process

The activity diagram below illustrates FGM RIS Query and Response functionality.



Key:  The 'swim lane' and processes shown in yellow are within the scope of this Information Standard

## 4 Operational Use

### 4.1 Viewing FGM Risk Information

Patient / parent consent is not required to view the FGM risk information held on the FGM RIS core service. The FGM RIS project is an important part of the overall DH FGM Prevention Programme to support child protection and safeguarding for girls at risk of FGM by facilitating the sharing of FGM risk information with other relevant health professionals. It is accepted that information sharing is vital to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child. A key factor identified in many serious case reviews has been a failure by practitioners to record information, to share it, to understand its significance and then take appropriate action [ref 9].

The FGM RIS core service has the capability for applicable IT systems to share information as to whether a child is at potential risk of FGM. This information is not currently readily available to clinicians, especially within unscheduled care settings, where a presenting child is not known to that organisation.

The FGM risk information should be used to provide the NHS healthcare worker with an opportunity to apply local processes and safeguarding procedures related to FGM. Local processes should include further assessment as to whether the girl is currently at risk of FGM. Conversely it should not be assumed that if no message is displayed the child is not at risk of FGM.

Access to FGM RIS information will be determined locally although it is expected that all healthcare professionals will have access to the system including, but not limited to, GPs, nurses in general practice, midwives, school nurses, health visitors and paediatricians.

### 4.2 Safeguarding Procedures and Processes

FGM is a form of child abuse and as such, professionals have a statutory obligation under national safeguarding protocols, for example, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' [ref 8] to protect girls at risk of FGM.

NHS funded healthcare providers will already have local safeguarding protocols and procedures for helping children and young people who are at risk of or facing abuse. These should include sharing of information with multi-agency policies and procedures, consistent with those developed by their Local Safeguarding Children Board. This Information Standard does not replace existing safeguarding processes.

It is strongly recommended that NHS funded healthcare providers review their current processes, if they have not already done so, to include handling cases where FGM is alleged or known about or where there is a potential risk of FGM identified. FGM RIS integration is not intended to replace existing working practices and processes but aims to support them. NHS funded healthcare providers will need to determine locally how FGM RIS integration will be used with their existing processes and ensure processes and procedures are updated accordingly.

### 4.3 Service Management

It is expected that existing arrangements to support access to Spine services and communicate service outage will be applicable.