



Standard of Practice

Female Genital Cutting Mutilation

Initial Approval: January 1, 2019

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

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Standards of Practice of Medicine set out the requirements related to specific aspects for the quality of the practice of medicine. Standards of Practice of Medicine provide more detailed information than contained in the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, Regulations, and Bylaws. All registrants must comply with Standards of Practice of Medicine, per section 86 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act*.

This Standard of Practice of Medicine is made under the authority of section 82 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act* and section 15 of the CPSM Standards of Practice Regulation.

PREAMBLE

Female genital cutting/mutilation is internationally recognized as a harmful practice that results in the violation of human rights. Many international and national bodies including the World Medical Association, and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada have released statements opposing the practice and participation of physicians in FGC/M.¹

1. Female genital cutting/mutilation (FGC/M) is the excision, infibulation or mutilation, in whole or in part, of the labia majora, labia minora or clitoris of a person, which may result in complications with voiding, sexual function, and psychological wellbeing. The *Criminal Code of Canada* categorizes FGC/M as aggravated assault with certain exceptions, and FGC/M on a minor is child abuse and must be reported to the appropriate child caring agency pursuant to *The Child and Family Services Act*.
2. Registrants must not perform FGC/M.
3. Registrants must not refer any patient to any other person for FGC/M.
4. If a registrant learns of another registrant performing FGC/M, the registrant must immediately report the matter to CPSM.
5. Registrants must be mindful of the legal obligation to report child abuse to the appropriate child caring agency pursuant to *The Child and Family Services Act*.

¹ [WMA Statement on Female Genital Mutilation](#) and [Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Canada's Clinical Practice Guideline No. 395 – Female Genital Cutting](#).

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Registrants play an important role in opposing and denouncing FGC/M. Registrants can support patients by educating themselves on how to properly manage possible complications related to FGC/M and by providing culturally sensitive counselling to families about the danger of the practice. Registrants who encounter patients who have undergone FGC/M can obtain guidance from the Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Canada's Clinical Practice Guideline No. 395 – Female Genital Cutting.