

Circumcision Services for Boys in Greater Manchester

A guide on how to choose the
right service for your son

Greater
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SAFEGUARDING

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So you've decided to get your son circumcised, this leaflet can help you decide who to use.

What you need to know

- Although most boys recover well with no problems, like all operations, circumcision carries a risk of harm.
- The NHS does not fund male circumcision unless there is a medical reason.
- The General Medical Council recognises that male circumcision can be carried out for religious and cultural reasons.

Age

We recommend your son's circumcision is done when he is as young as possible. This leaflet only applies to circumcisions done in the community for boys under one year of age.

Consent

- Both parents and/or carers with parental responsibility must give consent before the operation happens. Consent means you want to have your son circumcised, and that the operation and potential risks have been explained to you.
- You should feel free to ask any questions. Don't be afraid to ask. All good practitioners should be happy to answer your questions. You must feel confident in the practitioner you use.
- The practitioner should ask you about your son's health and your family's health history before doing the circumcision. Your son should be in good health before the circumcision.

Clean & sterile

The place should be clean. Sterile instruments should be used, in order to reduce the risk of your son developing an infection. A good practitioner will use equipment and techniques designed to make the operation as safe as possible.

You may want to make the circumcision part of a family celebration, but remember; circumcision is an operation and needs to be performed in a suitable place that is quiet and clean with sterile equipment.

Being present during the circumcision

If you want to be with your son when the circumcision is performed you need to talk about this with the person who will be doing the circumcision. Some, not all, practitioners are happy for you to be present, so discuss this when you first contact them.

Pain management

Having a circumcision may be painful for your son. You should be told about how the pain will be managed during the circumcision, and how to reduce his pain at home afterwards.

After care

Your son should be kept at the premises for at least 30 minutes after bleeding from the circumcision has stopped. The staff should talk you through what happens next and how to care for your son. When you go home you should be given a detailed leaflet about how to look after your son, including when and where to seek help and any signs to look out for. You should be given a contact number to use if you have any concerns.

If you are worried about your son after the circumcision, you should contact the practitioner. If you cannot get in touch with them, or are not happy with their advice, you should take your son to your local A&E.

Remember if you arrive for the circumcision and you are not happy with anything or worried about your son's health for any reason, you do not need to go through with the circumcision at this time. Any good practitioner should listen to your worries and rearrange or cancel if that is what you wish.

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Complaints

If you are unhappy about the service you received first speak to the practitioner that did the circumcision. If you are not happy with their response you can contact your local NHS PALS service. These organisations will advise you of what you need to do.

Female genital cutting has no medical benefits and is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003)

<http://www.gmsafeguardingchildren.co.uk/>