

# Child Protection, Consent and Confidentiality Policy

December 21, 2006

## **1 Child Protection**

In any instances non-clinical members of staff suspect or witness child abuse the principal should be informed immediately. In absence of the principal the medical doctor on call or the practice nurse will be contacted who in turn will arrange the necessary.

Children shall be seen and examined by clinical staff only in presence of a responsible adult, unless a medical emergency requires otherwise or on demand of the child when the child is deemed to be Gillick competent. Such a demand should be recorded in the notes.

## **2 Child Consent**

Children are not per se incapable of giving or withholding informed consent for medical examinations, treatments and procedures. Whether a child is capable of doing so and to which degree, maybe even contrary to the wishes of parents or other legal guardian and/or contrary to its best medical interest is a matter requiring careful assessment and thought. Some legal guidance is available in »Gillick«. The practice and its clinical staff will at all times endeavour to make children patients full participants in

their care and allow them to come to good and informed decisions in line with their capabilities.

### **3 Child Confidentiality**

Children as patients are entitled to confidentiality just as everyone else too. Whether or not this confidentiality outweighs the practice's and its clinical staff's duty of care under Child protection guidance and legislation is a matter requiring careful assessment and thought taking into account the potential risks, the child's mental capacity and his/her maturity.

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