

Think exploitation

A guide for Community Pharmacists

Consider consultation space

“Would you like to talk with us privately?”

“Would you like any other checks today, for example your blood pressure, we can do this in a separate space?”



Black Country
Integrated Care Board

Listen and observe

If a patient is in immediate danger, call 999

Where possible, try to **see the patient alone**

Ask the question:

1. How did this injury occur?
2. Who is the person that they are with?
3. Explore age of partner and safety of relationship?
4. Are they worried about anything?

Explain your concerns:

- Consider seeking consent to safeguarding referral, if required
- Consider whether this would put patient at additional risk
- **Safeguarding concerns override the need for consent**

Report:

- Complete Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) and exploitation tool – **see QR codes**
- Contact Pharmacy Safeguarding Lead for support
- Ensure follow-up of your referral to gather outcome and ensure patient safety
- MARF referral outcome should be received within 48 hours, follow up, as required

Consider **signposting** for other support and offering a further appointment. **Record** intervention.

Always be vigilant

Pharmacies are accessed by adults and children who are victims of exploitation, sometimes to remain invisible to services such as Urgent Treatment Centres, A&E and GPs

Exploitation types:

- Sexual
- Criminal
- County Lines/ home takeover
- Forced labour
- Modern slavery
- Human Trafficking
- Financial
- Forced marriage
- Organ removal
- Forced begging

Spotting the signs:

- Frightened
- Aggressive
- Dirty
- Poor Memory
- Confusion
- Multiple mobile phones
- Malnourished
- Lack of eye contact
- Reluctant to answer questions
- Closed and withdrawn persona

Think perpetrator awareness:

Who have they attended with?
Who is waiting outside, on the phone? Listening to the consultation?
Are they aggressive/ confrontational/ obstructive?
Consider the use of a Police Intelligence form (FIB) to share information regarding potential perpetrators to aid intelligence gathering:
[FORCE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU | policeandschools.org](https://www.forceintelligencebureau.org/)



Presentation may include:

- Repeated emergency contraception
- Accompanied by person of concern
- Recurring UTIs
- Repeated pregnancy tests
- Contraception
- Additional needs/ disabilities
- Self-harm
- Non-collection of medication
- Declining support
- Unkempt/ expensive clothing
- Mental health crisis
- Unexplained injuries e.g. wounds
- Reluctance to attend for treatment
- Attendance during school time

Scan for further advice and referral information for your area



Sandwell
adult referrals



Walsall
referrals



Dudley
referrals



Wolverhampton
referrals



Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

What can you do?

Take action. No one should have to live with abuse or neglect. Don't assume that someone else is doing something about the situation. If you are concerned about yourself or a person you know, you can try telling a friend, family member, your partner, a healthcare worker or your GP.

For more information

You could contact the following authorities such as:

- Dudley Children's Services 0300 555 0050 option 4
 - <https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding/child/>
- Dudley Adult Social Care Team 0300 555 0055 option 1
 - <https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding/adults/>
- Sandwell Children's Services 0121 569 3100
 - <https://www.sandwellcsp.org.uk/home/marf/>
- Sandwell Adult Social Care Team 0121 569 2266
 - https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200216/adults_and_older_people/2209/report_adult_abuse
- Walsall Adult Social Care Access Team 0300 555 2922
 - <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/walsall-safeguarding-partnership/Report-a-concern/For-an-adult>
- Walsall Children's Services 0300 555 2866
 - <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/walsall-safeguarding-partnership/Report-a-concern/For-a-child>
- Wolverhampton Children's Services 01902 555392
 - <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/safeguarding-children/how-report-concerns>
- Wolverhampton Adult Social Care 01902 551199
 - <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/protecting-adults-abuse/report-adult-abuse>

