

Adult Support and Protection

Brief Guide

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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Adult Support and Protection brief Guide - to be used in conjunction with the [GP Guidance Booklet](#)

An Adult at Risk of Harm is:

- unable to safeguard their well-being, property, rights or other interests,
- at risk of harm and
- more vulnerable because they are affected by disability, disorder, illness or infirmity.

Harm is defined as 'all harmful conduct' and examples are provided in the flow chart. Where you know or believe a patient is an adult is at risk of harm, a referral should be made within 24 hours. However, where risk is imminent take immediate action.

Decision Making- The GP Guidance Booklet (insert link) suggests some questions to assist your decision making of the patient in relation to them being at risk of harm.

Requests for Information by the Local Authority or Delegated Agency - In terms of your professional obligation to share information about your patients you may receive requests under sections 4,5 or 10 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. This places duties upon named agencies and staff (including NHS Boards) and provides that it is an offence to, without reasonable excuse, to refuse or otherwise fail to comply with a request.

Confidentiality and Practice Dilemmas - Confidentiality is not absolute. Local procedures provide mechanisms for sharing relevant and proportionate information to support your professional obligations. Please check [GP Guidance Booklet](#) and guidance by; [GMC](#), [BMA - toolkit](#), [RCGP](#), [RCN](#) and [BMA Consent and Information Sharing](#)

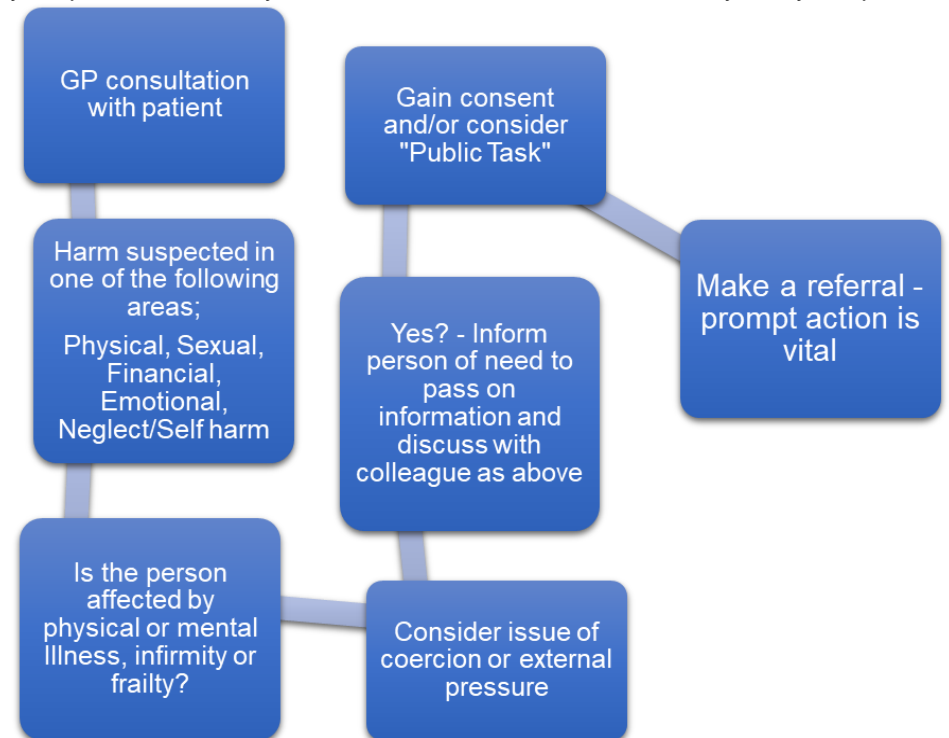
Relevant Medical Examination - Before any examination related to adult protection concerns you must be satisfied it is necessary and appropriate in the circumstances. You should be clear what it is designed to achieve and whether the outcome is likely to affect the proposed course of action. Consider giving the adult the option of having another appropriate person present during the examination. Avoid repeated examinations as these may be harmful to the adult. **Act Against Harm [National website](#) and you can find your Local Authority contact [here](#)**

Overview of Your Role

Recognise – be aware of adult protection issues and how they may present
Report – consult your in house or local adviser for adult support and protection to discuss making a referral *but* ensure this does not adversely delay referring
Refer – refer the patient and their circumstances through your local process
Record – use the patient record to note; issues, circumstances, actions and rationale for sharing information.

Contacts for Advice and Decision Making Flow Chart

Practice Based Adviser, NHS Health Board Specialist Adviser, Caldicott Guardian ([Find your local contact - Act Against Harm](#)). If local advice is unavailable, contact your professional body but ensure this does not unreasonably delay the process.



*Public Task - You can rely on this lawful basis if you need to process personal data 'in the exercise of official authority'. This covers public functions and powers that are set out in law; or to perform a specific task in the public interest that is set out in law. [[ICO Public Task information](#)]