A large, stylized blue male symbol (♂) is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the title and the central text box. The symbol is composed of a thick blue circle and a horizontal bar extending to the right, with a diagonal line extending upwards and to the right from the end of the horizontal bar.

Circumcision services for baby boys in The Black Country

**A guide to
choosing the right
option for your son**

If you are considering
having your son circumcised,
this leaflet can help you
decide what service to use.

What you need to know

Although most boys recover well with no problems, like all operations circumcision carries a risk of harm. You should fully consider the risk and if you still want to proceed carefully choose your practitioner.

The NHS only pays for medically-necessary circumcisions – these are rare and do not include operations carried out for religious and cultural purposes.

The General Medical Council (GMC) recognises that male circumcision can be carried out for religious and cultural reasons. We recommend that you check that the doctor carrying out the procedure is registered with the GMC and that the service you decide to use is quality assured by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

You will most likely need to pay for the circumcision, so ensure you have agreed the total price in writing before the procedure.

Age

We recommend that your son's circumcision is done when he is as young as possible. Therefore, contacting your proposed practitioner early for advice is recommended. If your son is much older or you are considering circumcision in adulthood, it is not advisable to have the circumcision outside of a hospital setting, so please discuss your options with your GP.



Consent

Both parents and/or carer 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 questions. 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.

Where can I go to have my son circumcised?

There are a range of CQC registered circumcision practitioners who can perform operations in The Black Country, or in other areas.

For their details, please visit [Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](http://cqc.org.uk) and type in "circumcision" and the area or location.

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.

Clean and sterile

The place should be clean. Sterile, single-use 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.

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.

Aftercare

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 contact out of hours.

If you are worried about your son after the circumcision, you should immediately contact the practitioner. If you cannot get in touch with them, or are not happy with their advice, you should ring NHS 111 or 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.

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 either the General Medical Council or the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Female Genital Cutting

It is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003) to carry out Female Genital Cutting (FGC) – you can be prosecuted for having this arranged or performing FGC, either in the UK or any other country. Anyone found guilty faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.



Female genital cutting has no medical benefits.

Child safety

If you are worried, or have any concerns about a child or a young person who you think may be abused, neglected or harmed, please contact the appropriate local MASH Team:

- Dudley MASH Team on 0300 555 0050
- Sandwell MASH Team on 0121 569 3100.
- Walsall MASH Team on 0300 555 2866
- Wolverhampton MASH Team on 01902 551199.
- Birmingham MASH Team on 0121 303 1888
Emergency out-of-hours 0121 675 4806

If you are concerned about an adult who works with or has direct contact with children in their place of work, either as a paid staff member or volunteer – please visit:

<https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/>

<https://www.sandwellcsp.org.uk/>

<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/walsall-safeguarding-partnership/>

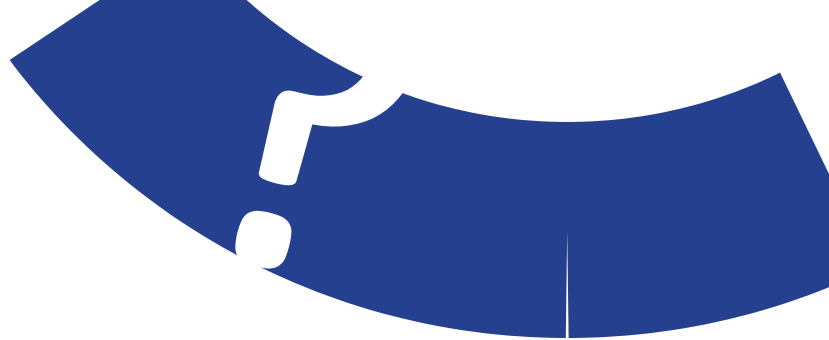
<https://www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/>

<https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/>

Contacting the ICB's

If you wish to contact NHS Black Country ICBs, you can call 0121 612 1702 or email comms.blackcountry@nhs.net

Some questions you might like to ask when choosing a circumcision service



Does the provider do lots of successful circumcisions?

The more they do, usually indicates the safer the procedure is. The minimum should be 20 per year, but the higher number, the better.

Is the provider registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC)?

This is the regulator for healthcare providers and all circumcision services with doctors or nurses should be registered. Visit the website at www.cqc.org.uk or call 03000 616161.

What are the qualifications of the individuals who perform the circumcision?

Check that the doctors are registered with the General Medical Council. Visit the website at www.gmc-uk.org or call 0161 923 6602.

If the procedure is being undertaken by a nurse, check that they are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Visit the website at www.nmc-uk.org or call 020 7637 7181.

How many different people will provide care and services to your son?

Will doctors, nurses or other kinds of staff be looking after your son? Will there be a doctor on site?

Does the provider offer literature explaining its services and fees?

Ask to see this in advance and ask for anything you do not understand to be explained. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Are they willing to discuss any special needs that you may have?

Make sure they listen and act on any needs that you may have.

Are you treated with respect when inquiring about available care and services? Are they sensitive to your cultural values and beliefs?

Clinical services should always treat you with respect.

What kind of aftercare do they provide?

You should stay at the service for at least 30 minutes. They should provide a staffed 24hr helpline number or named member of staff for you to contact once you have left.

When are the procedures performed?

If a procedure is carried out towards the end of the week, does the service provide support over the weekend?

How does the provider ensure confidentiality of health information for you or your family?

They should use a secure computer or records system.

What are the costs for each service?

These should be clearly explained in writing.

Are they in line with what other providers charge for the same service?

You should consider asking a number of services for their cost.

How will you be billed?

Will all costs and payment options associated with your care plan be consistently explained and outlined on your bill?

You should consider whether you pay up front or receive an invoice afterwards.