

Quedgeley Medical Centre GP Surgery Lone Patient Policy

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Background

Quedgeley Medical Centre is committed to the lone patient policy. Patients over the age of 16 with capacity should be able to see a Clinician alone confidentially. Hence it may be necessary for clinicians to advise patients to be seen alone during consultation.

Routine safeguarding enquiries allows victims to disclose their experiences and access support and information safely. Routine safeguarding enquiries is recommended by the Department of Health and suggest that Health Practitioners ask *“about experience of any form of abuse of all people within certain parameters”* (Department of Health, 2000, para. 3.11) regardless of whether there are any visible or physical signs of abuse or neglect as per Home Office. Victims are unlikely to disclose any safeguarding concerns in front of their partner as it will not be safe to do so. They are also unlikely to disclose this in front of a family member, their children or a friend for many reasons including embarrassment, shame, fear of further harm or judgement. It is important to remember that anyone can be a victim of Abuse and therefore making routine enquiring about abuse for all patients over the age of 16 is essential in order to safeguard potential victims.

Useful resources for patients

GDASS Gloucestershire domestic abuse support service: 08456029035, <http://www.gdass.org.uk/>

Gloucester Housing Support 01452 726951

Police: Non-emergency: 101, emergency 999

Gloucester Social Services - 01452 426565/Out of hours: 01452 614194

Broken Rainbow LGBT helpline - 0300 999 5428;

Stroud Beresford Group (Stroud Women’s Refuge): 01453 764385 [Website](#)

Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre independent charity: 01452 526770 [Website](#)

Hope House – SARC help for victims of sexual assault: 01452 754390, [Website](#)

Infobuzz groupwork programme for female survivors of domestic abuse: 01452 381770 [Website](#)

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (24 hour helpline)

Mens Advice Line: 0808 801 0327

National Centre for Domestic Violence: 0800 970 2070

Victim Support: 0808 1689 111

Respect: (Support for men who abuse women) Phonenumber is available on freephone 0808 802 4040