

THE NORTH THORESBY PRACTICE

Dr P Harris
Dr S Vennila
Dr S Mitra
Dr H Macrorie
Dr S Kucharuk

The Surgery
Highfield Road
North Thoresby
N.E. Lincs
DN36 5RT
Tel: 01472 840202
Fax: 01472 840970

Gillick competency

Medical professionals need to consider Gillick competency if a young person under the age of 16 wishes to receive treatment without their parents' or carers' consent or, in some cases, knowledge.

If the young person has informed their parents of the treatment they wish to receive but their parents do not agree with their decision, treatment can still proceed if the child has been assessed as Gillick competent.

Fraser Guidelines

The Fraser guidelines apply specifically to advice and treatment about contraception and sexual health. They may be used by a range of healthcare professionals working with under 16-year-olds, including doctors and nurse practitioners.

Practitioners using the Fraser guidelines should be satisfied of the following:

- The young person cannot be persuaded to inform their parents or carers that they are seeking this advice or treatment (or to allow the practitioner to inform their parents or carers).
- The young person understands the advice being given.
- The young person's physical or mental health or both are likely to suffer unless they receive the advice or treatment.
- It is in the young person's best interests to receive the advice, treatment or both without their parents' or carers' consent.

- The young person is very likely to continue having sex with or without contraceptive treatment.

Gillick competence is the principle we use to judge capacity in children to consent to medical treatment. Fraser guidelines are used specifically for children requesting contraceptive or sexual health advice and treatment. Where a person under the age of 16 is not Gillick competent and therefore is deemed to lack the capacity to consent, it can be given on their behalf by someone with parental responsibility or by the court. However, there is still a duty to keep the child's best interests at the heart of any decision, and the child or young person should be involved in the decision-making process as far as possible.

- If the patient is under 16 years and the nurse is a non-medical prescriber, please make an appointment with the ANP or GP first, the general practice nurse can do reviews, if the GP's documentation covers safeguarding, reasons for initiation and sexual health
- Ensure you're satisfied with the guidelines being met?
- You must adhere to the guidelines to ensure the young person is able to understand contraceptive choices available and the consequences. This includes the implications and the risks of having a sexual relationship

Adapted from references evidence below

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/gillick-competence-fraser-guidelines>

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/gp-mythbuster-8-gillick-competency-fraser-guidelines>

Lyndsey Evans Lead Nurse 11/05/21

To review annually