A picture containing screenshot, text, font, graphics

Description automatically generated

**Sexual Exploitation Risk Questionnaire (SERQ)**

**Guidance Notes**

This form is to be used by professionals working in the areas identified below. As they have ‘time limited’ contact with patients, this will help them to quickly identify children and adults at risk of sexual exploitation (SE).

Areas identified:

GP practices   
Emergency departments  
Paramedics and Ambulance staff   
Walk in Centres

For professionals not on the list, it is expected that you use the full Sexual Exploitation Assessment pertinent to your area.

If a patient (child or adult) presents to your service and discloses one or more of the following issues a short Sexual Exploitation Risk Questionnaire (SERQ) needs to be completed (below).

* Contraception or STI testing/treatment (including emergency contraception/pregnancy testing)
* Pregnancy
* Drug or alcohol problems or overdose
* Self-harm
* Disclosure of sexual assault or sexual activity that raises concern
* Domestic violence in the home
* Evidence of vulnerability

Questions 1 and 2 are more child-specific and should be explored with all children age 18 years and younger and consideration should be given to using them for adults with a learning disability.

Questions 3 and 4 can be used with adults.

This is a tool to help practitioners risks assess; however, professional judgement and professional safeguarding curiosity must also be used.

If you are able to complete the fuller risk assessment with the patient, please do so; this can be found in the Local Safeguarding Information within the Child Sexual Exploitation section of the regional North and South of Tyne Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual.

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/contents.html>

You may like to introduce the questions with:   
"I would like to ask you some questions to check that you are safe and no one is harming you or pressurising you to have sex."

**PLEASE NOTE**

Children under 13 years of age cannot consent to sexual activity and child protection procedures must be followed.

Also consider if the child / young person / adult has capacity to consent to sexual activity.

**Sexual Exploitation Risk Questionnaire (SERQ)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **4 Questions** | **Yes** | **No** |
| 1  Child Q but may be pertinent to ask with adult patient | How old is your boyfriend/ girlfriend or the person(s) you have sex with?  Age of partner \_\_\_\_ Age of client/patient \_\_\_\_ Age difference \_\_\_\_  A significantly older boyfriend, girlfriend or friend is a known risk factor for sexual exploitation but even if the partner is under 18 they could be being influenced by another person in order to bring about an exploitative situation (the boyfriend/gang model). Tick yes if you have any concerns. |  |  |
| 2  Child only | Have you ever stayed out overnight or longer without permission from your parent(s) or guardian? |  |  |
| 3 | Does your boyfriend/ girlfriend or the person(s) you have sex with stop you from doing things you want to do **Or** make you do things which you don’t want to do? |  |  |
| 4 | Thinking about where you go (socialise), or the place you have sex. Do you feel unsafe there or are people worried about your safety? |  |  |

**OUTCOME**

If the patient has answered ‘yes’ to **one or more of questions 1 to 4** this indicates that the child/ adult may be at risk of, or experiencing Sexual Exploitation. The practitioner should then:

* Use professional judgement regarding the level of risk identified.
* Consider any information received from attendances at A+E, unplanned care, WIC; to inform decisions.
* Seek advice from the Named GP for Safeguarding or Social Services to discuss the appropriateness of making a referral.
* If submitting a referral into Children or Adult Social Care to follow the Local Safeguarding procedures, via the following links

Newcastle : <https://www.nscb.org.uk/>

Gateshead : <https://www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk/>

Additional information about Child Sexual Exploitation can be found on the NHS England link below.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/cse-pocket-guide.pdf>