**Guidance on handling Intimate images of U18 patients in Primary Care**

**Clinician requesting an intimate image of an U18**

**Unsolicited Intimate image of an U18 sent to GP**

**Storage of Intimate images of U18’s**

If going ahead despite the above

* *Explain to child why the image is needed*
* *Clearly record consent & capacity (including name and relationship to the child)*
* *Ensure images are proportionate, cropped, removes face etc.*
* *Ask patient to immediately delete the image from their camera / telephone*
* *Only use a GP FIT online consulting provider to manage the process*
* *Never your own personal devices*
* *Ensure messaging is sent which is fully explanatory & clear*
* The decision to store must be justifiable and transparent and lies with the clinician
* In most cases document findings from photo and delete
* If using AccuRx, any image received will be stored for life on the system, regardless of GPs choice not to store or keep them on the patient’s record
* Only store images that you would have done if it was a F2F consult.
* Files with stored images should be flagged to aid review at a later date
* MDU advice suggests it is not desirable to store intimate body images into GP records.
* The MDU further state they cannot see any circumstance in which GPs would sanction the taking by parents or teenage patients photographs of intimate body parts of U18s.
* Carefully and contemporaneously document the circumstances
* Delete the image from your system
* Contact the parent / carer / individual who holds parental responsibility or the young person: choice dependent on the source of the image with a standard response which would include: -
	1. *The Practice has not requested the image*
	2. *The practice has deleted it from the IT system*
	3. *The practice will be in contact for a consultation (i.e.) will ‘start again’*
	4. *Advise the patient to delete the image from their device(s).*
	5. *Reiterate the patient facing messages re: code of conduct when sharing images of U18s*
* ‘econsult’ is clear that parents should NOT be sending in photos of intimate body areas
* Think – Do you really need the image?
* Think – Is it justifiable and the only way to manage this clinical situation?
* Most GPs working in child safeguarding report they wouldn’t request intimate images of U18s
* The **MDU** does not endorse it