

January 2013

*Fabricated or Induced Illness by Carers (FII): A Practical Guide for Paediatricians*<sup>1</sup> was published by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in October 2009. The document, at the time, committed to a review date of October 2012.

All members of the original working group, who are still contactable, were approached for their view as to whether the document should be revised. The RCPCH Child Protection Standing Committee was also consulted. This statement reflects the consensus opinion of the working group and Standing Committee.

**The 2009 guidance remains relevant, valid and up-to-date.**

It was agreed that there have been no significant and substantive changes to national policy or the clinical evidence base since 2009, save for a paper published in 2011 which suggests that a chronic somatoform disorder or factitious disorder (or both) was detected in almost two-thirds of the perpetrators<sup>2</sup>.

Feedback received anecdotally suggests the document is useful and still current, and is compatible with national and local guidance where it exists. It should also be noted that no formal approaches have been made to RCPCH to revise the content of the document.

It is agreed that the document does not require substantive revision at the present time.

Consultees recognise the continuing paucity of research in this area and the RCPCH will continue to seek funding to undertake a detailed systematic review of the evidence base and supports the need for further research to be conducted.

It is likely that the revised version of the safeguarding statutory guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, will be published in early 2013. This guidance may impact upon the previously released supplementary statutory guidance *Safeguarding Children in whom illness is fabricated or induced*<sup>3</sup>, published in 2008. RCPCH will continue to monitor national developments and may seek to revise the RCPCH guidance in due course, dependent on national policy changes.

This statement should be read alongside the current publication. Readers are reminded that new evidence, at any time, could alter or invalidate the findings and it is therefore the reader's responsibility to keep up to date with the literature.

For further information, or to submit comments or thought, please email [nick.libell@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:nick.libell@rcpch.ac.uk).

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/system/files/protected/page/Fabricated%20or%20Induced%20Illness%20by%20Carers%20A%20Practical%20Guide%20for%20Paediatricians%202009.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Bass, Christopher. Jones, David. *Psychopathology of perpetrators of fabricated or induced illness in children: case series*. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 199(2):113-8, 2011 Aug.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00277-2008.pdf>