

SCREENING FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE—RADAR

ROUTINELY SCREEN

By adopting policies to routinely screen men and women for intimate partner violence, you remove discriminatory practices and educate patients that IPV is a serious health concern.

ADVISE & ASK

ADVISE: LIMITS OF CONFIDENTIALITY

“I want to advise you that I am a mandatory reporter of domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse.

If I learn or believe an injury I'm treating is caused by abuse, I am required to report this.

If you tell me that children were present during domestic violence, I am also required to report this.

Do you have any questions?”

ASK: INITIAL SCREENING QUESTIONS

“Because abuse is so common and because it can affect you and your health, we ask all our patients about abuse.”

1. Within the past year, has your partner hit, slapped, kicked, or otherwise physically hurt you or threatened you?
2. Within the past year, has your partner forced you to participate in unwanted sexual activities?
3. Are you afraid of your partner?

If a patient says “no”: I'm glad this is not a problem for you. If this should ever change, please know that you can talk to me or your provider about this.

If a patient says “yes”: I am so sorry this has happened to you, but I'm glad you are telling us so we can help.

DOCUMENT

1 DESCRIBE SPECIFICS ABOUT THE ABUSIVE INCIDENT

- Who inflicted the violence?
- What is the health impact on victim?
- Use body maps/pictures to identify injuries.
- Does perpetrator abuse alcohol/drugs?

2 USE PATIENT'S OWN WORDS

- Use quotations and factually descriptive language.
- Do not add info you don't know!

3 DOCUMENT OPTIONS DISCUSSED & REFERRALS MADE

- Include discharge information and follow-up arrangements.

4 MANDATORY REPORTING FORMS

- Cal EMA 2-920
- Organization's internal form

ASSESS PATIENT SAFETY

- Is the partner you are referring to your current partner or an ex-partner?
- If it is an ex-partner, do you still have contact with them?
- Did this person accompany you to the appointment today?

- Does the person have access to a firearm?
- Do you feel safe going home?
- Are there children or elders in the home?

RESPOND & REFER

OC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES AND 24/7 HOTLINES

- Human Options: 887-854-3594
- Interval House: 714-891-8121
- Laura's House: 866-498-1511
- WTLC: 714-992-1939
- National DV Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- Case Management
- Counseling Services
- Legal Advocacy
- Shelter and Housing

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- 211OC, 211oc.org/DV
- OC Adult Protective Services: 800-451-5155
- OC Family Justice Center: 714-765-1645

TIPS FOR MANDATORY REPORTING

SETTING THE STAGE

- Screening should occur in private
- Implement formal 'rooming alone' policies whenever possible
- Explain confidentiality policies at the beginning of each visit
- Discuss mandatory reporting in the context of safety for the patient and/or the patient's family

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE CAN INCLUDE:

"This is a confidential relationship, however there are some limits to that confidentiality.

If you tell me that you or someone in your home, like a child or older adult, is being harmed or is in danger of being harmed, that is something I would have to report to the authorities.

Do you have any questions about this?"

MANDATORY REPORTING—IPV

CALIFORNIA STATE LAW: PENAL CODE 11160

You are required to report if:

- There is **PHYSICAL** injury you know, or reasonably believe, was caused by abuse, assault, or a firearm, and
- You are the treating provider, currently treating the injury caused by IPV

No report is required if:

- You learn of prior abuse or
- You learn of current abuse, but are not treating that wound or physical injury.

Note that it is illegal to report when not mandated to do so.

Reporting Procedures:

- Use form Cal EMA 2-920 (or form specific to your organization)
- Must notify local law enforcement as soon as possible
- Hard copy must be filed (usually by fax) within 48 hours

To request a training please email:
communityeducation@humanoptions.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HEALTH COLLECTIVE
ORANGE COUNTY

