SCREENING FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Healthcare professionals should routinely ask patients direct, specific questions about abuse. “RADAR” is a tool that summarizes action steps healthcare professionals should take in recognizing and treating victims of intimate partner violence.

R Routinely Screen men and women for intimate partner violence, which removes discriminatory practices while educating patients that IPV is a serious health concern.

A Advise of Limits of Confidentiality and Ask direct questions in a non-judgmental manner. “At any time, has a partner hit, kicked, or otherwise hurt or frightened you?” Interview your patient in private at all times.

D Document what happened, use patient’s own words, and describe all injuries in detail, including information about “suspected domestic violence” or “partner violence.”

A Assess for patient safety. Is it safe to return home? Find out if any weapons are kept in the house, if children are in danger, and if the violence is escalating.

R Review options and refer. “Would you like to talk about what has happened to you? Would you like some help?”

Adapted from the RADAR action steps developed by the Massachusetts Medical Society.

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.
WHERE CAN I REFER PATIENTS?
National 24/7 DV Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

OC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES & 24/7 HOTLINES
Human Options: 887-854-3594
Interval House: 714-891-8121
Laura's House: 866-498-1511
WTLC: 877-531-5522 or confidential email/text LOVE@wtlc.org

OC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMUNITY CENTERS
Human Options—Center For Children and Families, Costa Mesa: 949-757-3635
Laura's House—Domestic Violence Advocacy Center, Garden Grove: 714-450-6131
WTLC—Center, Fullerton: 714-992-1931

ADDITIONAL OC RESOURCES
211OC: 211oc.org/DV
OC Adult Protective Services: 800-451-5155
OC Family Justice Center: 714-765-1645
Child Abuse Registry: 714-940-1000
To report suspected child abuse 24 hours a day: 800-207-4464
CSP Domestic Violence Assistance Program: 714-935-7956

For research and programming about abuse across the lifespan, visit the UCI Initiative to End Family Violence at endfamilyviolence.uci.edu.