



Domestic Violence and the Role of Health Care Providers

End Abuse
Long Beach

www.endabuselb.org
Since 1975

LOCAL REFERRAL NUMBERS

- D.A.'s Victim Witness Assistance Program (562) 491-6310
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (562) 435-3501
- Long Beach City Prosecutor (562) 570-5600
- Long Beach District Attorney (562) 491-6301
- Long Beach Police Dept./Domestic Violence Unit (562) 570-7277

SHELTERS

- Interval House, Long Beach/Orange County (562) 594-4555
- Rainbow Services, San Pedro (310) 547-9343
- 1736 Family Crisis Center, South Bay/Long Beach/Los Angeles (562) 388-7652
- Su Casa, Lakewood/Artesia (562) 402-4888
- WomenShelter of Long Beach, Long Beach (562) HER-HOME (437-4663)

SUPPORT GROUPS

- Family Service (562) 867-1737
- Jewish Family & Children's Service (562) 427-7916
- YWCA/Greater Los Angeles, Sexual Assault Crisis Program (877) 943-5778

BATTERERS' TREATMENT PROGRAMS

- Alternatives to Violence (562) 493-1161
- Family Service (562) 867-1737
- Options Counseling (562) 989-0809

HOTLINES

- L.A. County Adult Protective Services Hotline (877) 477-3646
- L.A. County Child Abuse Hotline (800) 540-4000
- L.A. County Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 978-3600
- Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) (800) 656-HOPE
- Suicide Crisis Line (877) 727-4747
- 211 Los Angeles 211

Adapted from "Intimate Partner Violence: An Assessment Tool for Providers"

From the Family Violence Prevention Fund

http://www.endabuse.org/section/programs/health_care

Mandated Reporting

In California, health care providers must report current injuries that result from domestic violence to the police, even if the victim does not want to make a report.

Reports must be made to the Department of Children & Family Services if children witness domestic violence. If the patient is over 65 or is a dependent adult, file an Adult Protective Services report. For more information see the "Mandated Reporting" section on www.endabuselb.org

PHYSICAL SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Injuries to head and neck.
- Multiple or repeated injuries or bruising at different stages of healing.
- Vague complaints about headaches or stomach pains.
- Intentional injuries to breast, abdomen, or genitals.
- Miscarriage or any injury during pregnancy; repeated STDs.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Delay in seeking medical care & seeks care in different facilities.
- Explanations inconsistent with the nature of the injury.
- Partner refuses to allow woman to be alone during examination.
- Extreme fear, discomfort or trauma during gynecological exams.

Intimate Partner Violence: Guidelines for Providers

Domestic/Intimate Violence is the most common cause of injury to women in the United States.

As a health care provider, **YOU** can help save a woman's life by knowing the signs and symptoms of domestic violence and by practicing appropriate screening and referral procedures. Start by establishing a private setting (interview the patient alone).

Discuss the limits of confidentiality.

Use direct questions:

"Because violence is common in many of my patients' lives, I ask all of my patients..."

- Has anyone ever hit you, hurt you, or threatened you?
- Does your partner make you feel afraid?
- Have you ever been forced to have sex when you didn't want to?
- How does your partner treat you? What happens when you disagree?

Respect a patient's decision to disclose or not.

If you get a positive answer:

- Give positive messages of support
 - You are not alone
 - You don't deserve this
 - You are not to blame
- Assess immediate danger
 - Ask "are you afraid to go home today?"
 - Determine if the perpetrator is with them
- Assess for safety of children in the home
- Assess for risk of lethality
 - Threats of homicide
 - Involvement of weapons
 - Suicidality/homicidality of victim and perpetrator
 - History of strangulation/stalking

Intervention Strategies:

- Offer crisis support numbers
- Repeat messages of support
 - I'm glad you talked to me
 - You deserve respect
 - I'm concerned about your safety
- Prepare a safety plan (hotline staff can help)
- Inform the patient about the different services available (counseling, legal assistance, shelter, police reports)
- Arrange for a follow up visit

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles offers free services to eligible clients, helping them to obtain protective orders. The Domestic Violence Clinic does not require appointments. Clients are seen on a first come, first served basis. Clinic hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, please arrive at 9 a.m.. We are located at the Long Beach Courthouse, Room 40C, 415 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90802.