

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners. Without intervention the violence usually escalates in both frequency and severity resulting in repeat visits to the healthcare system.

History suggesting domestic violence:

- Traumatic injury or sexual assault
- Suicide attempts, overdose
- Physical symptoms related to stress
- Vague or non-specific complaints
- Pregnancy complications
- History inconsistent with injury
- Delay in seeking medical care
- Repeat visits
- Alcohol or drug use
- Depression/Anxiety

Behavioral Clues:

- Evasive, reluctant to speak in front of partner
- Overly protective partner

Physical Clues:

- All physical injuries
- Unexplained, multiple, or old injuries

Ask About Domestic Violence:

Use a non-judgmental manner. Talk to the patient alone in a safe private room. Use direct, simple questions such as:

- Did someone cause these injuries? Who?
- Are you in a relationship with a person who physically hurts or threatens you?



Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County
&
American Academy of Pediatrics

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners. Without intervention the violence usually escalates in both frequency and severity resulting in repeat visits to the healthcare system.

History suggesting domestic violence:

- Traumatic injury or sexual assault
- Suicide attempts, overdose
- Physical symptoms related to stress
- Vague or non-specific complaints
- Pregnancy complications
- History inconsistent with injury
- Delay in seeking medical care
- Repeat visits
- Alcohol or drug use
- Depression/Anxiety

Behavioral Clues:

- Evasive, reluctant to speak in front of partner
- Overly protective partner

Physical Clues:

- All physical injuries
- Unexplained, multiple, or old injuries

Ask About Domestic Violence:

Use a non-judgmental manner. Talk to the patient alone in a safe private room. Use direct, simple questions such as:

- Did someone cause these injuries? Who?
- Are you in a relationship with a person who physically hurts or threatens you?



Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County
&
American Academy of Pediatrics

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners. Without intervention the violence usually escalates in both frequency and severity resulting in repeat visits to the healthcare system.

History suggesting domestic violence:

- Traumatic injury or sexual assault
- Suicide attempts, overdose
- Physical symptoms related to stress
- Vague or non-specific complaints
- Pregnancy complications
- History inconsistent with injury
- Delay in seeking medical care
- Repeat visits
- Alcohol or drug use
- Depression/Anxiety

Behavioral Clues:

- Evasive, reluctant to speak in front of partner
- Overly protective partner

Physical Clues:

- All physical injuries
- Unexplained, multiple, or old injuries

Ask About Domestic Violence:

Use a non-judgmental manner. Talk to the patient alone in a safe private room. Use direct, simple questions such as:

- Did someone cause these injuries? Who?
- Are you in a relationship with a person who physically hurts or threatens you?



Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County
&
American Academy of Pediatrics

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners. Without intervention the violence usually escalates in both frequency and severity resulting in repeat visits to the healthcare system.

History suggesting domestic violence:

- Traumatic injury or sexual assault
- Suicide attempts, overdose
- Physical symptoms related to stress
- Vague or non-specific complaints
- Pregnancy complications
- History inconsistent with injury
- Delay in seeking medical care
- Repeat visits
- Alcohol or drug use
- Depression/Anxiety

Behavioral Clues:

- Evasive, reluctant to speak in front of partner
- Overly protective partner

Physical Clues:

- All physical injuries
- Unexplained, multiple, or old injuries

Ask About Domestic Violence:

Use a non-judgmental manner. Talk to the patient alone in a safe private room. Use direct, simple questions such as:

- Did someone cause these injuries? Who?
- Are you in a relationship with a person who physically hurts or threatens you?



Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County
&
American Academy of Pediatrics

Take a Domestic Violence History:

- Past history of domestic violence, sexual assault
- History of abuse of children

Send Important Messages to Patient:

- They are not alone
- There is help available
- Avoid victim blaming
- It is not their fault

Assess Safety:

- Is it safe to go home?
- Can the patient stay with family or friends?
- Does the patient need access to a shelter?
- Does the patient want police intervention?

Make Referrals:

- Involve social worker if available
- Provide a list of shelter, resources, and hotline numbers
- Crisis Line number: Women's Transitional Living Center (714) 992-1931, Interval House (562) 584-4555, Human Options (949) 854-3554, Laura's House (949) 498-1511

Document Findings:

- Make sure handwriting is legible
- Use the patient's own words regarding injury and abuse
- Clearly document all injuries, use a body map
- Take Polaroid photographs of injuries or use a police photographer

Reporting:

- California law requires health care providers to report cases of physical conditions resulting from assaultive conduct
- Immediately make a report by telephone to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area where abuse occurred
- Send a written report to the law enforcement agency within two working days. Be sure to follow your facility's procedures for reporting.

www.vpcoc.org

6/2004

Take a Domestic Violence History:

- Past history of domestic violence, sexual assault
- History of abuse of children

Send Important Messages to Patient:

- They are not alone
- There is help available
- Avoid victim blaming
- It is not their fault

Assess Safety:

- Is it safe to go home?
- Can the patient stay with family or friends?
- Does the patient need access to a shelter?
- Does the patient want police intervention?

Make Referrals:

- Involve social worker if available
- Provide a list of shelter, resources, and hotline numbers
- Crisis Line number: Women's Transitional Living Center (714) 992-1931, Interval House (562) 584-4555, Human Options (949) 854-3554, Laura's House (949) 498-1511

Document Findings:

- Make sure handwriting is legible
- Use the patient's own words regarding injury and abuse
- Clearly document all injuries, use a body map
- Take Polaroid photographs of injuries or use a police photographer

Reporting:

- California law requires health care providers to report cases of physical conditions resulting from assaultive conduct
- Immediately make a report by telephone to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area where abuse occurred
- Send a written report to the law enforcement agency within two working days. Be sure to follow your facility's procedures for reporting.

www.vpcoc.org

6/2004

Take a Domestic Violence History:

- Past history of domestic violence, sexual assault
- History of abuse of children

Send Important Messages to Patient:

- They are not alone
- There is help available
- Avoid victim blaming
- It is not their fault

Assess Safety:

- Is it safe to go home?
- Can the patient stay with family or friends?
- Does the patient need access to a shelter?
- Does the patient want police intervention?

Make Referrals:

- Involve social worker if available
- Provide a list of shelter, resources, and hotline numbers
- Crisis Line number: Women's Transitional Living Center (714) 992-1931, Interval House (562) 584-4555, Human Options (949) 854-3554, Laura's House (949) 498-1511

Document Findings:

- Make sure handwriting is legible
- Use the patient's own words regarding injury and abuse
- Clearly document all injuries, use a body map
- Take Polaroid photographs of injuries or use a police photographer

Reporting:

- California law requires health care providers to report cases of physical conditions resulting from assaultive conduct
- Immediately make a report by telephone to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area where abuse occurred
- Send a written report to the law enforcement agency within two working days. Be sure to follow your facility's procedures for reporting.

www.vpcoc.org

6/2004

Take a Domestic Violence History:

- Past history of domestic violence, sexual assault
- History of abuse of children

Send Important Messages to Patient:

- They are not alone
- There is help available
- Avoid victim blaming
- It is not their fault

Assess Safety:

- Is it safe to go home?
- Can the patient stay with family or friends?
- Does the patient need access to a shelter?
- Does the patient want police intervention?

Make Referrals:

- Involve social worker if available
- Provide a list of shelter, resources, and hotline numbers
- Crisis Line number: Women's Transitional Living Center (714) 992-1931, Interval House (562) 584-4555, Human Options (949) 854-3554, Laura's House (949) 498-1511

Document Findings:

- Make sure handwriting is legible
- Use the patient's own words regarding injury and abuse
- Clearly document all injuries, use a body map
- Take Polaroid photographs of injuries or use a police photographer

Reporting:

- California law requires health care providers to report cases of physical conditions resulting from assaultive conduct
- Immediately make a report by telephone to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area where abuse occurred
- Send a written report to the law enforcement agency within two working days. Be sure to follow your facility's procedures for reporting.

www.vpcoc.org

6/2004