

## ABUSE AND NEGLECT

All in and out-patients shall be screened at admission for signs of abuse and neglect.

If abuse and/or neglect is suspected in a minor child, as a mandated reporter you must: Report this immediately to Childline. 1-800-932-0313 or use the online portal: [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). Childline determines the response timeframe for the assigned county Children and Youth Agency to investigate the report.

If any physical/sexual abuse is suspected in a minor child, a CY-47 needs to be filled out by a Physician. This documents injuries on a form and gets sent into Children and Youth Services for investigation.

If domestic violence is suspected or reported, it may be appropriate to offer resources to the patient. Resources include:

Crisis 1-877-268-9463

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233/ TTY 1-800-787-3224

Victim Services (814) 288-4961

The Women's Help Center (814) 536-5361.

Some injuries **do require** a report to law enforcement. These include the category of "**Serious bodily injury:**" Bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ. This includes, but is not limited to, a gunshot wound or knife wound.

If abuse and/or neglect is suspected in elderly, age 60+, you should:

Report this to Protective Services

- Area Agency on Aging (814) 539-5595 or (800) 992-4464.
- Document findings, observations and statements made by the patient or family/care giver(s) which support the suspected abuse/neglect.
- Photograph injuries, if appropriate.
- Possible Indicators of abuse/neglect may include:
  - Patient states that abuse/neglect occurred.
  - Repeated and/or unexplained traumatic injuries.
  - Explanation of injuries is vague or refused to explain.
  - Patient exhibits fear, withdrawal or unnatural compliance in presence of caregiver.
  - Suspicious history (similar episodes of unexplained injuries, "doctor hopping," etc.)
  - Unusual delay in obtaining treatment for injuries.

If abuse and/or neglect of a dependent adult (a physical or mental impairment that results in the patient relying on someone else for activities of daily living) is suspected who is between the ages of 18 and 59:

- Call the Statewide Protective Services Hotline: 1-800-490-8505 or 1-888-243-6561 after hours
- For cases of suspicious death, serious injury, serious bodily injury or sexual abuse, you must also contact law enforcement and Department of Human Services.

**ALWAYS document in the medical record that you made the report and with whom you spoke.**