

REPORTING ADULT DOMESTIC ABUSE/NEGLECT

CALL SOCIAL WORK for all positive (+) categories below, any age

	Age 18-64	Age 65+, or dependent adult
Who are mandated reporters?	Any healthcare practitioner providing medical services for a physical condition	Any healthcare worker providing care for the patient
(+) Screening question	Assess for present injuries	Report (see B below)
(+) Suspicious injuries	Report (see A below)	Report (see B below)
(+) Neglect		Report (see B below)
(+) Sexual assault	Call Police Dept.	Call Police Dept.

A. REPORTING AGE 18-64

1. If physical injuries are present, fill out “Suspicious Injury Report” State Form OES 920.
2. Call police dept. in city where injury occurred (PAPD if unknown) ASAP.
3. Send copy of report to police dept. within two working days.
4. Notify security if abuser on the premises.
5. HIPAA requires informing patient of report, unless this would put patient at risk of serious harm.

B. REPORTING AGE 65+ OR DEPENDENT ADULT

1. Fill out “Report of Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse” State Form SOC 341.
2. If abuse occurred in a private residence, hotel or shelter, call ASAP and send copy of report within two working days to Adult Protection Services in county where patient lives. (Santa Clara 800-414-2002, San Mateo 800-675-8437)
3. If abuse occurred in nursing home or adult day care center, call ASAP 800-231-4024 and send copy of report within two working days to Ombudsman in county where abuse occurred.
4. HIPAA requires informing patient of report, unless this would put patient at risk of serious harm.

For further information, documentation, forms and educational resources:

<http://domesticabuse.stanford.edu> <http://elderabuse.stanford.edu>

Stanford University Hospital

SCREENING FOR ADULT DOMESTIC ABUSE/NEGLECT

Domestic/elder/dependent adult abuse includes neglect, or repeated and often increasing psychological, physical and sexual harm. The healthcare setting provides a safe and private place for support of patients who may feel afraid and isolated. California state law and Joint Commission require routine screening for abuse.

LOOK FOR SUSPICIOUS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Bruises in various stages of healing, welts, burns, bites, fractures
- Head, neck, face, eye, oral cavity, breast, genital, rectal trauma
- Injuries don't fit history, history keeps changing, delay in seeking care
- Repeat pattern of ED visits, suicide attempt, stress symptoms
- Dehydration, malnutrition, poor hygiene, pressure ulcers, contractures
- Evidence of over or under dosing required medications

OBSERVE INTERACTIONS

Does patient seem evasive, afraid to speak, or physically afraid of partner/caregiver?
Does partner/caregiver answer for the patient, refuse to leave patient alone, seem controlling or overly protective?

ASK

Ask patient privately, using hospital interpreter as needed. You may also ask again later in another way, if indicated.

- “Does a partner, or anyone at home, hurt, hit or threaten you?”
- “How are things going at home? How does your partner/caregiver treat you?”
- “Are you afraid of anyone at home?”
- “Has anyone failed to take care of you when you needed help?”
- “Sometimes when I see an injury like this it is because someone else caused it. Did someone do this to you?”

RESPOND

If a patient answers “yes”, be nonjudgmental and supportive – avoid blame

- No one deserves to be treated this way.
- It's not your fault.
- It's against the law.
- I believe you.
- I'm sorry you have been hurt.
- Help is available.

CONTACTS

Social Work 3-5091

Risk Management 3-6824

Security 3-7222

Palo Alto Police Dept. (PAPD) 329-2413