

PROTOCOL FOR: Abuse: Eldery Abuse

- POLICY:**
1. Chapter 319d of the Connecticut General Statutes mandates reporting to Protective Services for the Elderly at the State of Connecticut Department of Social Service Toll Free Referral Line (1-888-385-4225) any situations in which an elderly person has experienced, or is threatened with, abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment, or is in a condition which is the result of such abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment, or is in need of protective services.
 2. Mandatory reporters are required to report to Protective Services for the Elderly at the Connecticut Department of Social Service within five calendar days of the time the suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment is discovered. The following Hospital and Health Systems professionals are mandated reporters:

Physicians	Surgeons
Hospital Residents	Hospital Interns
Registered Nurse	Licensed Practical Nurse
Coroner	Dentist
Dental Hygienist	Psychologist
Social Worker	Police Officer
Chaplain	Pharmacist
Physical Therapist	Optometrist
Chiropractor	Podiatrist
Mental Health Professional	Physician Assistant
Counselors	Day Care Employees
Medical Examiners	
 3. The Social Work Department will be notified of any elderly patients suspected of having experienced, or been threatened with, abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment.

SUPPORTIVE

DATA: Legal immunity from any civil or criminal liability related to a mandatory report is provided to those who report in good faith. Elder abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment may include, but are not limited to: physical abuse, threats of assault, verbal abuse, financial exploitation financial or otherwise, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, abandonment, and violation of an elderly person's rights.

DESIRED PATIENT

- OUTCOMES:**
1. The patient's safety will be maintained while hospitalized.
 2. The patient will be offered support and counseling services.
 3. The patient will be discharged to a safe environment.

**CLINICAL
ASSESSMENT AND**

- CARE:**
1. Assess for signs and symptoms of potential elderly abuse:
 - a. Unexplained bruises.
 - b. Fractures/bruises in various stages of healing.
 - c. Repeated falls.

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- d. Laboratory values inconsistent with history.
 - e. Evidence of sexual abuse, physical signs of injury, sexually transmitted diseases.
 - f. Reports by the patient of physical abuse.
 - g. Fear of family member or caretaker by elder.
 - h. Gross deterioration of physical status without medical attention.
 - i. Overdosing or withholding of medications by caretakers.
2. Assess for signs and symptoms of potential elderly neglect:
 - a. Listlessness.
 - b. Evidence of malnourishment.
 - c. Inappropriate dress.
 - d. Evidence of abandonment: Poor hygiene, decubiti or urine burns.
 - e. Reports by patient of being left in unsafe situation.
 - f. Reports by patient of inability to get needed medications.
 3. Assess for signs and symptoms of possible exploitation of the elderly patient:
 - a. Patient's unexplained complaint of loss of social security/pension checks.
 - b. Evidence that material goods are being taken in exchange for care.
 - c. Evidence that the personal belongings of the elder are being taken without their consent.
 4. Assess for signs and symptoms of possible abandonment of the elderly patient.
 5. If elder abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment is suspected, talk with the patient privately.
 - a. Ask direct questions such as, "Has anyone at home ever hurt you?"
"Has anyone ever touched you without your consent?"
 - b. Validate and support the patient's concerns.
 6. Notify the Social Work Department if elder abuse is suspected.
 7. Report elder abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment to Protective Services for the Elderly at the Department of Social Service, State of Connecticut (1-888-385-4225).

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PATIENT

TEACHING: 1. Educate patient regarding resources available for support.

DOCUMENTATION: 1. Document in the medical record any discussions with the patient regarding elderly abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment.

2. Document any contact with the Protective Services for the Elderly at the Department of Social Services, State of Connecticut.

3. Document any patient education on the Patient and Family Teaching Record.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee
Department of Social Work

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/94

REVISION DATES: 7/97, 10/97, 11/99, 8/02, 8/08

REVIEWED DATES: 11/09