

## Toolkit for Development of Hospital-based Domestic Violence Intervention

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## Why Intervene in the Health Care Setting?

- Promotes better screening
- Reduces disparities in access to health care
- Promotes better diagnosis and treatment by medical personnel through awareness
- Ensures better documentation
- Allows better confidentiality
- Assists with mandated reporting (if indicated)
- **Identifies victims** – especially high risk patients who might not otherwise reach out for assistance

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## Why Position an Advocacy-based Program in a hospital?

- Answers Joint Commission standard
- Improves screening
- Trains staff
- Provides confidential crisis counseling/advocacy intervention on-site
- Links to shelter/counseling/legal services
- **Accesses victims**
- **Enhances services** (research demonstrates effectiveness)

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## Maryland Hospital-based Advocacy Programs

- Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis
- Sinai Hospital, Baltimore
- Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore
- Northwest Hospital, Randallstown
- Prince George's Hospital Center, Cheverly
- Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Towson

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## Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- > General Meetings
- > Quarterly Trainings and Presentations
- > Newsletter
- > Materials and Brochures
- > Website: <http://healthymaryland.org/public-health/domestic-violence/>
- > Developed Toolkit -**"Health Care Response to Domestic Violence: An Advocacy-based Manual for Hospitals, Facilities & Providers"**




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## Considerations in Developing a Program or Services

- Scope
- Services to Patients
- Services for Facility/Hospital
- Orientation

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## Scope

Programs may vary in the type or types of abuse and assault they respond to:

- Domestic violence
- Family violence
- Sexual assault/abuse
- Vulnerable adult abuse
- Child abuse
- Community violence
- Abuse survivorship

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## Services to Patients

Advocacy-based programs may differ in the services offered to victims:

- Crisis counseling
- Advocacy within the hospital
- Safety planning
- Danger/Lethality Assessment
- Documentation in the medical record
- Referral to community resources (counseling, shelter, legal assistance)

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## Services (continued)

- Therapy and counseling
- Support groups
- Community advocacy (e.g. court accompaniment)

In addition, advocacy-based programs may work collaboratively with other hospital-based services:

- Clinical medical assessment and documentation
- Forensic assessment and documentation

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## Services for Institution

- Staff Training
- Assistance with mandatory reports
- Screening
- Assessment
- Intervention with employee victims

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## Orientation

- Programs may be managed by and integrated into a hospital's **emergency department**, as well as able to respond to crisis cases in other areas of the facility.
- Programs may be managed by **social work departments**, and have access to cases in all areas of the hospital, with supervision and back-up coverage provided by social workers.

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## Orientation (continued)

- Programs may be **clinical**, staffed by doctors, nurses or forensic nurses. Note: these medically-based programs must partner with advocates within the facility or in the community to provide the appropriate advocacy response.
- Programs may be staffed by an **outside service provider**. (While these programs are certainly cost-effective for the hospital, outside employees do not have access to medical records for assessment or documentation.)

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## Resources and Materials

**Mercy Medical Center Family Violence Response Program**  
410-332-9470

**Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
[www.healthymaryland.org](http://www.healthymaryland.org) dvcoalition@medchi.org  
• 410-539-0872 or 800-492-1056, ext. 3316

**Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence**  
[www.mnadv.org](http://www.mnadv.org)  
301-352-4574

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## Power and Control: Domestic Violence and Healthcare

A Film by Peter Cohn | [www.powerandcontrolfilm.com](http://www.powerandcontrolfilm.com)

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## Books/Other Resources

- [Respond to Intimate Partner Violence: 10 Action Steps You Can Take to Help Your Patients and Your Practice](#)
  - by Ellen Taliaferro, MD, FACEP and Zita J. Surprenant, MD, MPH
- Futures Without Violence | [www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org)
  - *National Consensus Guidelines On Responding to Domestic Violence Victimization in Health Care Settings*
  - National Health Care and Domestic Violence Conference (March 29-30, 2012: San Francisco)

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## Questions?

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