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

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)
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

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/

Considerations in Developing a Program or Services
- Scope
- Services to Patients
- Services for Facility/Hospital
- Orientation
**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

**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)

**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
Services for Institution

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

Orientation (continued)

- 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.

Orientation

- 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.)
Resources and Materials
Mercy Medical Center Family Violence Response Program
410-332-9470

Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.healthymaryland.org dvcoalition@medchi.org
• 410-539-0872 or 800-492-1056, ext. 3316
• Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
www.mnadv.org
301-352-4574

Power and Control: Domestic Violence and Healthcare
A Film by Peter Cohn | www.powerandcontrolfilm.com

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
  • 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)
Questions?

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