

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Disclosure of Abuse

or

Potential Indicators of Abuse

Ask the Question

Document when you ask the domestic abuse question and the response.

Disclosure of Domestic Abuse and/or sexual violence. Explain the limits to confidentiality of the disclosure and what actions you may have to take.

Is the patient (and any child) in immediate danger?

YES



IMMEDIATE ACTION

Contact Police on 999 and initiate child and adult safeguarding procedures.

NO



Does the patient have children or is she pregnant?

YES



Talk to patient about the risks to children and the unborn child.

NO



Give information safely:

Women's Aid
National 24 hour
helpline:
0808 2000 247

Local Helpline
Number:

999 in emergency

Local Domestic Abuse
- explore options

Consider and act if children are at risk: initiate child protection procedures

Best Practice

Always talk to the individual alone

- Never pressure an individual to leave their partner
- Discuss and ensure a safety plan is in place
- Reinforce options
- Explain the role of expert agencies
- Always use a professional interpreter. Never use family members or the individual's friend if English is not his/her first language.
- Always ensure complex Domestic Abuse cases are brought to supervision for discussion
- Document all contacts, when asking 'the question', disclosures, actions, observations etc