

Process for responding to domestic abuse in GP Practices

CONSIDER DOMESTIC ABUSE IN PATIENTS WHO CONSULT WITH:

- Unexpected symptoms/Non-specific symptoms
- Tiredness
- Self-harm/Depression/anxiety
- Delay in injury presentation
- Injuries with inadequate explanations
- Chronic pain
- Genital injuries/STIs
- Frequent attendances (A&E/GP)

These are just some examples of health markers of domestic abuse. Visit the RCGP's website for a complete list or if you have specific concerns about a patient. : <http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/clinical-resources/-/media/Files/CIRC/Domestic%20Violence/RCGP-Responding%20to%20abuse%20in%20domestic%20violence-January-2013.ashx>

DISCLOSURE

Is the patient is currently experiencing domestic abuse. If the answer is "No", trust your professional judgement; if you have doubts ring one of the services below for advice. If "Yes", please continue with flow chart.

ASK

Make an explicit enquiry such as:

"Is someone you live with/or have lived with hurting you and/or frightening you?
ONLY ASK WHEN THE PATIENT IS ALONE.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Contact local police on 999 or 101 AND initiate child protection /adult safeguarding procedures.

TALK TO PATIENT ABOUT THE RISK TO CHILDREN

If the children are at risk: Initiate child protection procedures; <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/safeguarding/>

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

Consider mental health & mental health capacity. Consider protective actions and/or potential Safeguarding Adults Alert. Further documents are available on the RCCG intranet.

Is the patient (and any children) in immediate danger?
Are they at risk if they go home?

Yes

NO

Have a discussion about how they can keep safe.

Yes

Does the patient have children?
Is the patient a vulnerable adult?

Yes

NO

RESPOND

If not in immediate risk, you need to have the level of risk assessed. Please ring any of the listed organisations below to arrange a risk assessment for the patient. **Always take a safe phone number and time that the patients can be contacted** Apna Haq 01709 519212/1, Choices and Options 838400 Rotherham Women's Refuge (Refuge - 0870 850 2247) Rotherham Women's Refuge (Outreach - 0844 225 4411)

RECORD

- Consent to share information (or not) and ensure information is shared appropriately.
- Explain the need to document domestic abuse and document any injuries for purposes of evidence.
- Ensure patient is seen alone at future appointments.
- Use a code in patient notes to indicate a disclosure of Domestic abuse – indicate risk level if known (S1 XaN21 or EMIS 14XD)

Local numbers/information which you may find useful can be found at:

RMBC website: http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200036/domestic_violence/738/domestic_abuse

RCGP website: <http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/clinical-resources/domestic-violence.aspx>

Home Office: <https://www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

Domestic Homicide Guidance for GP'S- <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/DHR-guidance?view=Binary>