

Practice Guidelines: Domestic Violence

OBJECTIVES:

1. Define domestic violence.
2. Identify patients at risk for domestic violence.
3. Maintain a safe environment for the patient.
4. Obtaining early and appropriate referrals.

DEFINITIONS:

- Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behaviors that involve physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or psychological abuse against a former or current intimate partner.

GUIDELINES:

- Risk factors to look out for include women, personal history of domestic violence, history of substance abuse and frequent visits to the Emergency Room.
- All university hospital patients are assessed and screened by nursing personnel for potential identification as a victim during the admission process.
- Ensure a safe environment for the patient, identify the offender if possible and restrict visitation, notify the administrative supervisor of the floor and alert University Police if necessary.
- Early consultation to social services to provide appropriate referrals for the patient.

REFERENCES:

1. Refer to and follow Administrative Policy V-11.
 - o <http://www.upstate.edu/policies/documents/intra/V-11.pdf>
2. Refer to ACS Statement on Intimate Partner Violence
 - o <https://www.facs.org/about-acs/statements/74-partner-violence>
3. Sisley A, Jacobs LM, Poole G, Campbell S, Esposito T. Violence in America: A public health crisis—domestic violence. The Violence Prevention Task Force of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. J Trauma. 1999;46(6):1105-1113.