

Domestic Violence

Definition: Domestic violence is violence between intimates who are living together or have previously cohabited.

This type of violence is most prevalent against women. The family, a place that should be safe for women, is often the most dangerous.

Types of Domestic Abuse:

Physical – abuse is an act designed to injure, hurt, endanger or cause physical harm to a victim. Slapping, hitting, kicking, burning, choking, shoving, beating, throwing things, locking out and restraining are some types of physical violence.

Emotional – this type of abuse is more subtle. The abuser says things to shame, insult, ridicule, embarrass, demean belittle, or mentally destroy another person. Controlling access to the car, trashing belongings are all forms of emotional abuse.

Intimidation: anything that causes fear of the abuser

Isolation: control over what the victim does and who the victim sees and talks to

Spiritual: misquoting spiritual texts, taking them out of context in order to justify mistreatment

Guilt: causing the victim to feel guilty; about the children, using children to give messages, blaming the victim for anything from the state of the economy to the weather

Sexual – forcing another person to engage in sexual acts against their will is sexual abuse and rape.

Economic – the victim has no control over how money is spent and/or no financial freedom.

If you suspect a patient is a victim of domestic violence, notify your supervisor immediately.