

Sample Intimate Partner Violence Assessment¹

– assess privately, without family/friends; use interpreter (not family/friend) if needed; Assess females, ages 15-50, at every new, interval comprehensive, or urgent care health visit – as part of routine health history. Assess obstetric patients each trimester and postpartum. Ask directly or have patient self-administer the questions by computer or paper. Assess anyone when signs and symptoms raise concerns about violence (injuries, drug/alcohol use, STIs, psych disorders).or at provider discretion.

Introductory statements:

- "Because violence is so common and help is available, I now ask every patient if they are being hurt by a current or former partner."
- "I won't tell anyone else about what is said unless you give me permission."

[Exceptions for Maryland: abuse of vulnerable adults, children < 18 years of age by a guardian, or certain injuries, e.g. inflicted by gun or moving vessel]²

Sample questions³:

1. "Has your current or former partner threatened you or made you feel afraid?"

(stalked you, insulted you, threatened you with a weapon, threatened to hurt you or your children if you did or didn't do something, controlled whom you talk to/where you go/how you spend money)

2. "Has your partner hit, strangled or physically hurt you?"

("hurt" includes being hit, slapped, kicked, "choked" [or strangled], bitten, shoved)

3. "Has your partner made you have sex when you didn't want to?"

No

Yes (to any of above 3 questions)

"It is not your fault. You are not alone. Help is available. I'm concerned about your safety (and safety of your children). Abuse tends to increase in frequency/intensity and it can impact your health"

Option for on-site safety assessment

Sample questions to quickly assess: Is it safe to go home?⁴

- Has the physical violence increased over the past 6 months?
- Has your partner used a weapon or threatened you with a weapon?
- Do you believe your partner is capable of killing you?
- Have you been beaten while pregnant?
- Is your partner violently and constantly jealous of you?

Drug or alcohol use intensifies all situations

Note: Patient may be a danger to herself. Assess for depression/suicidality

"Yes" to ≥ 3 out of 5 questions** or concern for safety - "From what you've told me, you are at high risk for severe injury or even being killed by your abuser. Let's make a call to help you decide some safe options for you and your family." (Remember that the goal may not be leaving at once but discussing safety with a DV expert. Document if help is declined but respect patient autonomy for making decision.)

Offer to call National Hotline 800-799-SAFE or the local DV Program (see back) for safety assessment/planning, counseling, legal advice, shelter. Make other referrals (mental health) as needed; Schedule a follow up visit. Emphasize the need to keep information private and away from abuser.

A safety planning fact sheet is available at www.ndvh.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/Safety-Planning-2.pdf

- Educate and counsel as needed; discuss healthy relationships and give out safety cards¹/women's health resource list (with local DV contact information)
- By providing brochures, cards, resources and information to all women or for their "friends or family who may be dealing with violence" women can receive important information without disclosure.

¹Intimate Partner Violence: A guide for Health Care Providers", available at www.dhmf.maryland.gov/ipv/ has more information about IPV assessment, documentation, reporting requirements, special populations, resources and how to order safety cards

²Confidentiality and Reporting Requirements in Maryland, http://healthymaryland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/66090_DomVio_Confid.pdf

³Other IPV assessment tools such as "HITS" may be found at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/images/ipvandsvscreening.pdf

⁴ adapted from Academic Emergency Medicine 2009; 16:1208-1216



Maryland Domestic Violence/ Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)/Sexual Assault Service Programs		
County	Program	Daytime Number
Allegany	Family Crisis Resource Center	301-759-9246
Anne Arundel	YWCA Domestic Violence Services	410-626-7800
Baltimore City	House of Ruth MD	410-889-0840
	TurnAround, Inc.	410-377-8111
Baltimore County	Family and Children's Services of Central MD	410-281-1334
	Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, Inc.	410-285-4357
	TurnAround, Inc.	410-377-8111
Calvert	Crisis Intervention Center	410-535-1121
Carroll	Family and Children's Services of Central MD	410-876-1233
Caroline	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	410-479-1149
Cecil	Cecil Co. Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Center	410-996-0333
Charles	Center for Abused Persons	301-645-8994
Dorchester	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	410-479-1149
Frederick	Heartly House	301-662-8800
Garrett	The Dove Center	301-334-6255
Harford	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center	410-836-8431
Howard	HopeWorks	410-997-0304
Kent	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	410-479-1149
Montgomery	Abused Persons Program	240-777-4195
Prince George's	Family Crisis Center, Inc.	301-779-2100
	House of Ruth MD (legal, counseling services)	240-450-3270
Queen Anne's	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	410-479-1149
St. Mary's	Walden/Sierra, Inc.	301-863-6661
Somerset	Life Crisis Center	410-749-0771
Talbot	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	410-479-1149
Washington	CASA (Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused)	301-739-4990
Wicomico	Life Crisis Center	410-749-0771
Worcester	Life Crisis Center	410-749-0771

Resources

Hotlines: 24/7

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

1-800-787-3224 TTY

(interpreters for 170 languages and links to local DV hotline)

National Teen Dating Abuse

1-866-331-9474

On-line chat

www.loveisrespect.org

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) Hotline

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
202-464-4477

Adelante Familia – Baltimore, MD
410-732-2176

Chana – Jewish Community
410-234-0023

Futures Without Violence - excellent resource for patients and providers, **brochures, safety cards**, fact sheets
www.FuturesWithoutViolence.org

Health Cares About IPV – Screening and Assessment Toolkit
www.healthcaresaboutipv.org

Look to End Abuse Permanently - information for health care providers on IPV assessment
<http://www.leapsf.org>

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)
www.mcasa.org, 410-974-4507

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) – information to help health care providers assess for IPV
www.dhmh.maryland.gov/ipv

Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence (educational materials, reporting requirements)
<http://healthymaryland.org/public-health/domestic-violence/>. 410-539-0872

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence – information for patients, brochures, safety cards, fact sheets, data
www.mnadv.org/, 800-634-3577

Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. - information about protective orders and other legal matters
www.wlcmd.org, 410-321-8761