LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Purpose:

To establish guidelines for all hospital personnel to follow in the provision of treatment and mandatory reporting related to victims of suspected abuse, neglect, rape/sexual molestation and domestic violence.

Definitions:

A. Abuse is defined as the “infliction of physical or mental injury on an individual by other parties, including but not limited to such means as sexual abuse, exploitation, or extortion of funds or other things of value, to such an extent that his/her health, self-determination, or emotional well being is endangered.” (R.S. 14:403.2).

B. Neglect is defined as the refusal or failure of a parent or caretaker to supply the individual with necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment, or counseling for any injury, illness, or condition of the individual, as a result of which the individual's physical, mental or emotional health is substantially threatened or impaired.

C. Domestic Violence is “abuse committed against an adult or a fully emancipated minor who is a spouse, former spouse, co-habitant, former co-habitant or a person with whom the suspect has had a dating or engagement relationship.”

Policy:

1. If one or more of the following criteria are present, abuse/neglect should be suspected. Signs of abuse are not, however, limited to the examples given. High risk groups for abuse include the elderly, children and the handicapped.

A. Abuse/neglect: as evidenced by:

1. Discrepancies between history and injury and/or
2. Inconsistencies in the history in conjunction with criteria listed below.
B. Physical assault, (abuse) as evidenced by:
   1. unusual or unexplained bruising
   2. fractures
   3. burns
   4. repeated injuries
   5. head injuries, particularly in infants
   6. retinal hemorrhages in infants/children

C. Rape/Sexual Molestation, as evidenced by:
   1. bleeding, bruising or trauma of genitalia
   2. repeated UTI unrelated to other causes
   3. pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases in the very young
   4. sexual knowledge that exceeds the level of maturity
   5. depression
   6. unexplained loss of developmental milestones

D. Emotional or psychological abuse, as evidence by:
   1. withdrawn or excessively aggressive behavior
   2. inappropriate parent/child interaction
   3. depression
   4. conduct disorder
   5. suicidal

E. Neglect of Elders/Children
   1. lack of personal hygiene and/or appropriate clothing
   2. malnourished/dehydrated
   3. failure to thrive (height, weight and head circumference less than 5th percentile; plateau in the growth curve; or loss of two standard deviations on the growth chart.)
   4. lack of medical care
   5. over/under medicated
   6. lack of immunization
   7. lack of heat and/or running water

F. Domestic Abuse
   1. unusual or unexplained bruising
   2. fractures
   3. burns
   4. repeated injuries
5. head/face injuries
6. ingestions
7. non-substantiated complaints and/or delays in obtaining care
8. third-party or object blamed for injury
9. alleged self-injury

2. Reporting

A. A Licensed Healthcare Professional shall notify the appropriate authorities immediately and LSUHSC-S Social Services (57075) of all cases of suspected abuse/neglect. A Licensed Healthcare Professional shall notify LSUHSC-S Social Services of the suspected case(s) the next working day for reports that occur after hours. Outside Caddo/Bossier Parish: contact CM or SS for appropriate CPA numbers.

B. Appropriate authorities are listed below:

CHILD (0-18 years old)
Caddo Parish
Child Protection Agency 676-7622
1525 Fairfield Avenue (Hotline Number)
Shreveport, Louisiana 71130
Bossier Parish 749-7340

ADULT (18 - 59 years old)
Adult Protective Services 1-800-898-4910
DHH/Bureau of Protective Services
P.O. Box 3518, BIN # 11
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

ELDERLY (60 years old and over)
Elderly Protective Services 318/676-5200
1525 Fairfield Avenue, RM. 538
Shreveport, LA 71101-4338

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS Coordinator 318/676-5200
Ombudsman - Council On Aging
Office of Community Services

REHABILITATION HOSPITAL RESIDENTS Program Manager 504/342-0138
Louisiana Bureau of License Standards for Rehab Hospitals
Baton Rouge, LA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND
OR SUSPECTED RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT

Local Police/Sheriff’s Department
Bossier & Caddo Parish 911
Frierson 424-2433
Gloster 424-2433
Keatchie 424-2433
Stonewall 424-2433

3. Management for all Suspected Abuse/Neglect Cases

A. All cases suspected of abuse/neglect shall be seen by the appropriate senior resident.

B. If no evidence of abuse/neglect, the physician shall document the findings in the patient’s medical record.

C. If suspicion of abuse/neglect, the physician shall manage immediate medical needs.

1. The physician shall record a concise history which includes the alleged cause of the injury, dates, times and evidence of injury or endangered condition.

2. The physician shall record why the findings represent suspected abuse/neglect and any concerns regarding the patient’s safety.

3. If the licensed Healthcare Professional has concerns for the patient’s safety, they may admit the patient for safety reasons.

4. To obtain photographs, contact medical communications (55275) from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Consents are required to take photographs except when the Child Protection Agency is involved and has requested pictures.

5. For adults, records shall be released only upon consent of the patient or guardian or by a court subpoena. For children, refer to management of suspected child abuse/neglect. (Section 5).
4. Management for Suspected Rape/Sexual Assault

A. Upon request of the investigating officer a sex crime examination kit will be completed. Kits are stocked in the Hospital Emergency Room and the Pediatric Clinic. Contact the on-call physician.

1. A senior Ob/Gyn resident shall examine all cases involving females age 13 and greater.
2. A senior surgery resident shall examine all cases involving males age 13 and greater.
3. A pediatric resident shall examine all cases under the age of 13 years.

B. A MD or Licensed Healthcare Professional shall notify the appropriate authority in the parish where the alleged rape/sexual assault occurred.

C. The original EMS Treatment Record shall remain on the patient’s medical record. A copy may be provided as a part of the evidence kit.

D. The law enforcement official who receives the evidence shall sign the sex crime record and the patient’s medical record to acknowledge receipt.

E. With patient consent, a referral to YWCA Rape Crisis Center, 710 Travis Street (222-2116) shall be made by a licensed healthcare professional or social services. The referral shall be documented on the patient’s medical record by the healthcare provider who makes the referral.

5. Management of Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect (0-18 years old)

A. Consultation of the SCAN Team is recommended for evaluation of suspected child abuse/neglect (refer to criteria previously listed). They are available during Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (SCAN means Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect). Contact the on-call pediatrician or CARA Center (681-7676).

B. If the SCAN Team is not consulted, the appropriate senior resident must examine the child. Skeletal Survey should be performed.

C. For children, obtain skull, chest and long bone x-rays (scan series # 4212). Repeat in 10 - 14 days, if possible. Ophthalmology consult and CT of head should be performed.
D. To obtain photographs, contact Medical Communications (55275) from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. After a report of suspected child abuse/neglect is made to the Child Protection Agency all persons shall cooperate fully with investigative procedures. If questions about photographs and consents in child abuse/neglect cases, contact legal affairs (55406) or social services (57075) during the day and the house manager (55150) after hours.

E. The physician, physician’s assistant, registered nurse, or social worker shall report all cases of known or suspected child abuse by telephone to the Department of Social Services 675-7075 and the Office of Community Services 676-7622, followed by a written report within 5 days to the Child Protection Agency (as required by law). A copy of the clinic route sheet may be used as the written report. It shall be mailed/faxed to:

Caddo Parish Only
Child Protection Agency
1525 Fairfield Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71130
FAX # 676-7307
(0-18 years old)

F. The parents and/or guardian of the client shall be informed by the reporting party that the suspected injury has been reported, as required by law, to the appropriate protection agency. All CPA discharges must have a stat dictation with discharge.

G. Any child admitted who is a ward of the state must have consent obtained through the appropriate judge in the respective parish. Foster care workers should be contacted to determine who may give informed consent.

6. Management of Suspected Violence

A. A Licensed Healthcare Professional shall contact the local police/sheriff’s department immediately if domestic violence is suspected.

B. The information conveyed includes the patient’s name, whereabouts, injuries, and the identity of the person who the patient alleges assaulted him/her.

C. A Licensed Healthcare Professional shall contact social services.
D. Social services shall submit written documentation of suspected domestic violence to the local law enforcement agency on the next business day.

E. With patient consent, a referral shall be made to YMCA Family Violence Program (222-2117) by licensed Healthcare Professional or social services. The referral shall be documented on the patient’s medical record by the licensed healthcare provider who make the referral.

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Administrator

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Date

Clinical Board Approved: 11/21/00, 8/19/03
Written: 7/82
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