

Screening for Domestic Abuse

in the Emergency Department

All females aged >16, and all at risk males (homelessness/drug and alcohol misuse/mental health issue/disability), presenting with **any** injury

Explain

Ensure the patient is alone

'As abuse in the home is so common, we ask all patients about it routinely'

Ask

'Do you feel safe?'

'Have you ever been fearful for your safety or the safety of your children?'

'Are you currently frightened of someone?'

Consider Immediate Threat

Immediate threat to patient; offer police contact and emergency accommodation

Children at home; NOC documentation, police and social work involvement

Vulnerable person; API documentation, police and social work involvement

Act

Offer Navigator referral

Offer toiletry kit/lip balm

Offer relevant numbers, dependent on the nature of disclosure (see domestic abuse 'useful numbers' infographic on CEM website)

Be mindful of patient safety, give contact numbers discreetly

Document disclosure of domestic violence and share with patient's GP (with patient's consent)