

**Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Screening & Treatment Guidelines  
for Medical Providers**

Education and Screening	Assessment	Intervention	Documentation	Reporting
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish privacy (Educate and screen patient alone. Do not discuss in front of children.)</li> <li>Use staff or professional translation for translation (not family or friends.)</li> <li>Provide education about how stress in relationships can affect health. Make the conversation about IPV relevant to the patient's presenting health complaints.</li> <li>Ask direct questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has your partner ever hurt, hit or threatened you?</li> <li>Are you ever afraid of your partner?</li> <li>Has your partner (or anyone else) ever forced you to have sex or do something sexual you didn't want to do?</li> <li>Has your partner (or anyone else) ever tried to force you to get pregnant or interfered with your birth control?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ask indirect questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does your partner treat you?</li> <li>What happens when you and your partner disagree?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Also ask about past history of IPV to assess ongoing health and safety impacts</li> </ol>	<p><b>Assessment of current IPV</b> <u>Assess immediately:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess for safety in clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is perpetrator with patient?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Assess_for current safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threats of homicide</li> <li>Weapons involved</li> <li>History of strangulation or stalking</li> </ul> </li> <li>Assess for suicidality and homicidality</li> <li>Assess_for safety of children</li> </ol> <p><u>Assess over time:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess for pattern of abuse</li> <li>Assess history of effects of abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>injuries/hospitalization</li> <li>physical and psychological health effects. economic, social, or other effects</li> </ul> </li> <li>Assess for support and coping strategies</li> <li>Assess for readiness for change</li> </ol> <p><b>Assessment of past IPV</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess for current safety ("Are you (and any children involved) safe from this person now?")</li> <li>Assess history of effects of abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>injuries/hospitalization</li> <li>physical and psychological health effects. economic, social, or other effects</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give repeated messages of support</li> <li>Offer crisis phone numbers</li> <li>Assist in preparing a safety plan (or connect patient with a person who can) See <a href="http://www.leapsf.org/html/safety_plan.shtml">http://www.leapsf.org/html/safety_plan.shtml</a></li> <li>Offer advocacy and counseling</li> <li>Offer police and legal assistance</li> <li>Arrange for follow-up visits and a safe way to contact patient</li> <li>Expand the patient's support to multiple members of a multidisciplinary team (provider, community and clinic based advocates, social worker, PHN, counselor, etc.) if patient willing</li> <li>Formalize partnerships with advocacy, legal, mental health, housing, transportation, employment, cultural, spiritual and other organizations to facilitate accessible and integrated safety, support and empowerment interventions for IPV survivors</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write legibly if handwritten</li> <li>Use patient's own words in quotes</li> <li>Document as much info as patient will provide regarding specific events (who, what, where, when)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Physical Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe injuries in detail</li> <li>Draw diagrams of injuries</li> <li>If patient consents, take photographs of injuries</li> <li>Take serial photographs of injuries over time</li> </ul> </li> <li>Physical Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If patient consents, preserve physical evidence in paper bag</li> <li>Describe physical evidence in detail</li> </ul> </li> <li>Electronic Health Record (EHR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If diagnosis of IPV will be visible in the "Patient Portal" of EHR, educate patient about potential risks and inquire about whether patient will be able to keep password and account private.</li> <li>When providing a printed "after visit summary" either redact information about IPV or ask patient whether it is safe to take this written material.</li> <li>In pediatric charts, do not document parent/guardian IPV victimization in any area of the EHR that will be released to parent/guardian who is perpetrating IPV.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If patient is injured, file a mandatory health care report to police. (In state of California. Use OES-920 form)</li> <li>If you suspect children are being neglected or harmed, file a CPS report. (Advocate on behalf of adult victim/survivor's safety with CPS)</li> <li>If patient is ≥ 65 or a dependent adult, file an APS report</li> </ol>