Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery

Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery Provider Resource Card

The Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery provides counseling and advocacy services to patients who have been a victim or witness to a crime (domestic violence, sexual assault, community violence, and those who have experienced the loss of a loved one due to homicide).

Tips for Violence Screening

Set the stage, normalize the question: "Since many people report experiencing some type of violence in their lives, we ask all our patients about their safety at home and in their communities."

Ask the questions:

- "Do you ever feel afraid in any of your relationships (partner or family members)?"
- "Have you ever been physically, sexually, or verbally hurt by a person close to you?"

The following questions may be used to screen for those who have been a victim or witness to community violence (assault, shooting, stabbing, etc.):

- "Do you ever feel afraid for your safety or intimidated in your neighborhood or community?"
- "Have you ever been the victim of or witness to a crime in your neighborhood or community?"
- "Have you ever experienced the loss of a loved one due to homicide?"

Make a referral to the Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery (**Pager 31389**) if patient answers "yes" to screening questions.

Center for Violence Prevention & Recovery

617.667.8141, Pager ID# 31389

On-site Coverage Monday–Friday 8:30am-5:00pm

Phone Consultation 24 hrs

All services are private, confidential, and free of charge.

Tips for Providers working with Patients experiencing violence in their lives

1. Find a safe time and place to discuss the situation one-on-one with the patient.

2. Build trust, listen, and support in a non-judgmental way and respect patient's decisions.

3. For domestic violence and community violence, record current incident of violence, history of violence, current levels of risk, and support network. For sexual assault, follow SANE Protocol for documentation available on ED Dashboard or www.mass.gov/dph/fch/sane.

4. Validate patient's experiences, feelings, and fears.

5. Articulate that violence is unacceptable, and that "no one deserves to live in fear."

You may want to consider:

6. **Limited Access Status**: For medical inpatients with a safety concern, a limited access status can be requested through Admitting to protect patient privacy and room location.

7. **Safe Bed Program**: Victims of domestic violence or sexual assault can access this program for one night of shelter, through the Emergency Department, if they have been medically cleared and a safe shelter cannot be located until the next morning.

Other Important Numbers

BIDMC Public Safety
617.632.9111

SafeLink: Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (24 hrs)
877.785.2020

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center Hotline (24 hrs)
617.492.RAPE (7273)

Child Abuse Reporting Hotline (24 hrs)
800.792.5200

Disabled Persons Protection Hotline (24 hrs)
800.426.9009

Elder Abuse Hotline (24 hrs)
800.922.2275

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