

SUSPECTED ABUSE/NEGLECT/ INFLICTED PHYSICAL INJURY

Indications

- Identification and guidelines for reporting and treating suspected child abuse (persons <18 years), dependent adults between the ages of 18 and 64 years (those with physical or mental limitations restricting their ability to carry out normal activities), domestic abuse (intimate partner violence, includes dating relationships), and elder adults (≥65 years)
- Abuse is defined as harmful, wrongful, neglectful or improper treatment which may result in physical or mental injury
- Physical injury includes any injury that is self-inflicted or inflicted by another person or any assaultive or abusive contact

• BLS/ALS RMC
 • Treat and transport the patient per Destination Guidelines Policy GPC4

If patient or patient's Designated Decision Maker (DDM) refuses transportation and patient's life IS in imminent danger

- Stay on scene, request local law enforcement agency to respond and place patient in protective custody

If patient or patient's DDM refuses transportation and patient's life is NOT in imminent danger

- Leave the scene, contact law enforcement, establish radio contact with the intended receiving hospital, describe situation including reasons for suspecting abuse

If abuse suspected in individuals other than the patient

- Follow the procedures stated above for imminent and/or non-imminent danger

• Contact the local law enforcement agency and/or one of the following protective service agencies by phone within 24 hours and submit completed report within 36 hours of incident

- Marin Children and Family Services Emergency Response 415-473-7153
- State of California Report os Suspected Child Abuse (Form SS 8583- see GPC 9A)
- Marin County Adult Protective Services 415-473-2774
- State of California Report of Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse (Form SOC 341- See GPC 9B)

• For inflicted physical injury:

- Healthcare provider shall place a telephone call to the law enforcement agency with investigative jurisdiction as soon as practically possible
- A written report shall be completed (OES form 2-920) and faxed to the law enforcement agency within two working days (see below for fax numbers)
- Both telephone and written reports shall be submitted if the patient has expired
- The prehospital providers at the scene shall determine who amongst them submits the report

Critical Information

- Common findings in victims of child abuse are as follows:
 - Suspicious fractures in children <3yrs
 - Multiple fractures
 - Unexplained bruising
 - Starvation/dehydration
- Common findings in parents/guardians of abused child/elder/domestic partners/dependent adults are as follows:
 - Contradictory stories regarding patient's injury
 - Evasive answers to questions
 - Anger directed towards or little concern for the patient
 - Drug use
 - Inability to locate parent/guardian

Law Enforcement Agency	Fax
• Belvedere	415-435-9471
• Central Marin	415-927-5167
• Fairfax	415-457-8769
• Marin Sheriff	415-473-4126
• Mill Valley	415-389-4148
• Novato	415-898-5344
• Ross	415-453-6124
• San Rafael	415-485-3402
• Sausalito	415-289-4175
• Tiburon	415-789-2828