

# SUSPECTED ABUSE/NEGLECT/HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ALWAYS USE STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

## INDICATION

- Identification and guidelines for reporting and treating suspected child abuse (persons < 18 years of age), 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), human trafficking, and elder adults (≥ 65 years)
- Abuse is defined as harmful, wrongful, neglectful or improper treatment which may result in physical or mental injury.

## TREATMENT

- BLS/ ALS RMC
- Treat and transport the patient per Destination Guidelines Policy GPC 4
- If patient or patient's DDM (Designated Decision Maker) refuses transportation to the hospital 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 patient or patient's DDM refuses transportation to the hospital and patient's life is in imminent danger:
  - Stay on the scene, request local law enforcement agency to respond and place patient in protective custody.
- If abuse is 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 incidence:
  - Marin Children and Family Services Emergency Response, 415-473-7153. State of California Report of Suspected Child Abuse Report 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)

## CRITICAL INFORMATION

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

## RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES

- California Department of Social Services, Welfare & Institution Code (SS 15630, 15658 (a) (1), 8583
- Destination Guidelines Policy GPC 4