

District IX / CA

Postpartum Visit Algorithm: Domestic Violence Screening

Screen for

Domestic Violence

Immediate threat present?

Remember the ABCs:



evidence of abuse identified

at this time.





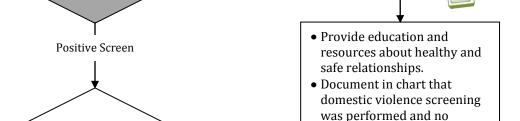


Domestic Violence Screening Statement and Questions:

Statement: "Because violence is so common in many women's lives and because there is help available for women being abused, I now ask every patient about domestic violence."

- 1. Have you ever been emotionally or physically abused by your partner or someone important to you?
- 2. Within the past year, or since you've become pregnant, have you been hit, slapped, kicked or otherwise physically hurt by someone?
- **3.** Within the last year, has anyone forced you to have sexual activities?
- **4.** Does your partner interfere with your birth control or refuse to wear condoms?
- **5.** Are you afraid of your partner or anyone else?

Positive screen = "Yes" response to one or more questions



Negative Screen

Yes

No

If immediate threat is present:

- Review immediate safety status and safety plan.
- Follow institution security procedures and state/municipality domestic violence reporting guidelines. (Inform patient of your reporting obligations.)
- Review available community resources, including National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224. Refer to social and support services as needed.
- Discuss contraceptive methods, including methods the patient can control (IUD, implanon, etc.).
- Assess for other behavioral health issues and refer to mental health specialist as needed.
- Plan for follow-up visit.

If no immediate threat is present:

- Discuss safety status and review patient's safety plan.
- Discuss contraceptive methods, including methods the patient can control (IUD, implanon, etc.).
- Assess for other behavioral health issues and refer to mental health specialist as needed.
- Review available community resources, including National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224. Offer a referral to social services, domestic violence supportive service agency or safety net services as needed.
- Assess safety of the newborn, other children and other members in the patient's household.
- Follow state and/or municipality domestic violence and child, elderly or disabled abuse reporting guidelines. (Inform patient of your reporting obligations.)
- Plan for follow-up visit.



Postpartum Visit Algorithm: Domestic Violence Screening

EVERY DAY

Checklist for Healthy Women

Exercise – 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week

Vitamin – 400 micrograms of Folic Acid per day

Educate yourself about medicines and chemicals that can cause birth defects

Reproductive life planning – set your personal goals for birth control and future children

Yearly doctor visits to discuss physical and mental wellness

Diet – Vegetables, fruits, and whole grains daily

Avoid tobacco, drugs, and alcohol

Your partner, friends, and family should be sources of support

Content from everywomancalifornia.org used with permission from the Preconception Health Council of California.

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