

SUSPECTED CHILD/ DEPENDENT ADULT/ ELDER ABUSE

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION 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) 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 according to 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 one of the following protective service agencies by phone within 24 hours and submit completed report within 36 hours of incidence:
 - Marin Child Protective Services, 415-499-7418. State of California Report of Suspected Child Abuse Report SS 8583 (see GPC 9A)
 - Marin County Adult protective Services, 415-507-2774. 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/ 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