



Women's Health Council of RI

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AFTER DISCLOSURE ASSESSMENT

Relationship-Building Questions

Checklist for Risk Assessment

1. Engage the patient

- I'm really glad you told us about what's happening. I'd like to help you.
- I want you to know that this is not your fault, and you are not alone.
- I can imagine that it must have been very difficult for you to share this with us; I hope you will let us help you.
- Could we talk for a few minutes about your immediate safety? I am worried about you and your children.

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4. Assurance of Continuing Care

- I know it's not easy to
 - acknowledge the abuse
 - ask for help
 - end such an important relationship
- Whatever you decide to do, I will be here to help. Let's talk more about this at your next visit. (Schedule within one month).
- I'm glad you are considering shelter/ a temporary restraining order/ talking with someone about the abuse. I'll look forward to talking with you about this next time.
- I understand that you aren't ready to take any action at this time. Would you feel comfortable taking a few minutes to read through this safety plan/information before you go? That way I can answer any questions you may have before we schedule your next visit.

Compiled from the Women's Health Council of RI's Workshop on Intimate Partner Violence, Providence, (2011) and the National Consensus Guidelines on Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence Victimization in Health Care Settings. Family Violence Prevention Fund, San Francisco. (2004)

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2. Safety Assessment

(Document these responses)

- Have the attacks increased in severity or frequency in the past year?
- Have you tried to terminate the relationship? If so, what happened?
- Have you been threatened with a weapon, choked or strangled?
- By whom? Name?
- Has the abuser ever forced you to have sex or do something sexually that you do not want to do?
- Has your partner ever pressured you to become pregnant or to terminate a pregnancy that you wanted to keep?
- Have your children been threatened?
- Do any of these happen to you: stalking, spying, interference with your birth control?
- Are your daily activities and expenditures controlled?
- Is the abuser constantly, violently, jealous?
- Does the abuser have any substance abuse problems?
- Are there weapons in your home? Does the abuser have access to weapons?
- Are you experiencing any thoughts of harming yourself?
- Do you feel safe to go home?

3. Informed Decision Making

- I don't want to frighten you, but you should know that this kind of abuse often becomes more frequent and severe over time.
- You should also know that two of the most dangerous times for abused women are when they are pregnant and within the first year of leaving an abusive relationship
- Abuse can impact your health in many ways. Exposure to violence has very real consequences for children, even if they have not been physically hurt by the abuser.
- There are emergency resources available right now if you need
 - a safe place to stay
 - help getting a temporary restraining order
 - help creating a safety plan
 - a safe place for your pet
- You do not have to file a police report to get help.
- Can you access emergency services via 911?
- What financial and physical resources do you have to escape?
- Can you identify a safe place you can go (e.g., friend's house, public library) if you are in immediate danger?
- Here's a hotline phone number (number only, written on a plain piece of paper). In RI (800) 494.8100

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