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For Joint Commission Compliance Strategies

Safe Zone:

Identifying and Responding to Abuse or Neglect in Hospitals

Any patient in the hospital could be a victim of abuse or neglect—it can occur at all ages, to any gender, to any race, and within any socioeconomic level. Abuse and neglect can take many forms, including physical, psychological, sexual, and financial.

Consider the following:

- More than 26% of children in the United States experience abuse or neglect by a caregiver at some point in their lives.¹
- Nearly 31% of women and 26% of men in the United States report intimate partner violence in their lives.²
- National studies have found that 5% to 25% of US adults report were sexually abused as children.³
- At least 10% of the US elderly population suffers from abuse or neglect.⁴

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Clinicians should be trained to assess for abuse and neglect.

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Perspectives on Patient Safety:

The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety Recognizes Eisenberg Award Recipients

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Make High-Quality Patient Handoffs a Priority: Effective Communication and Standardized Transfer Processes Help Organizations Keep Patients Safe



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