

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS  
EMT – Basic, Paramedic**

**SMO: Abuse: Spousal/Geriatric**

**Overview:** The severity of abuse may range from minor injuries to lethal acts. Elder neglect and abuse includes any conditions, situations, or physical evidence which cause suspicion that an elderly person has been mistreated, cared for inadequately, or exploited. Neglect or abuse may be of a physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial nature.

**INFORMATION NEEDED**

- History of abuse
- Initial assessment of patient
- Focused assessment of patient

**OBJECTIVE FINDINGS**

**Physical Indicators of abuse**

- Bruises/welts/lacerations
- Injuries that are unexplained/poorly explained/incompatible with the explanation
- Burns shape and size often reflect object used to burn
- Repeated injuries
- Frequent hospitalization
- Repeated use of Emergency Department services for injury
- Discrepancies between history and presenting illness
- Time delay between injury and coming to hospital (1-2 days)
- Reluctance to discuss circumstances surrounding injury
- Unexplained injuries
- Alleged third party inflicted injuries

**TREATMENT**

- Scene safety, notify law enforcement if needed
- Routine medical and/or trauma care
- Treat and injuries
- Should patient refuse care, Resource assistance information should be provided
- Attempt to preserve evidence

**Documentation of adherence to protocol:**

- Types of injuries sustained
- If local law enforcement were called
- Resource information given patient

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| <b>Medical Control Contact Criteria</b> |
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| ___ Contact Medical Control for patient refusal |
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**PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS**

- Information about shelter and alternatives is available 24 hours per day by calling the **Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233)**.

**Elder Abuse (All persons 60 years of age or older) must be reported**

- Illinois Department of Aging Hotline, 1-800-252-8966.
- In Winnebago and Boone counties, the Visiting Nurse Association of Rockford (VNA) is designated by the Department of Aging to investigate all possible elder abuse cases. A report can be made directly to VNA at 226-1228, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Nursing Home Abuse**

- Suspected victims of nursing home abuse or neglect are to be reported to the proper authority as mandated by Illinois State Law PA 82-120, "The Abused and Neglected Long Term Care Facility Residents Reporting Act". This authority is the Division of Enforcement, Illinois Department of Public Health, hotline number 1-800-252-4343.