

Dealing with Intimate Partner Violence in the Healthcare Setting

Essential Attitudes for Professionals

Concern for the abused

- “I am concerned about your situation.”
- “I don’t want you to be abused.”
- “I want to help you.”

Respect for the abused

- “I don’t blame you.”
- “You don’t deserved to be abused.”

First Essential Skill for Professionals

Practice Routine inquiry that is:

- Confidential
- Non-judgmental
- Compassionate

Examples: “Have you ever been hit, kicked, punched or threatened by someone important to you?”
or “How are things at home?” (HATAH)

Second Essential Skill for Professionals

AVOID questions that:

- Minimize the seriousness of the problem
- Increase the patient’s sense of shame and humiliation.

Help Victims Understand Themselves

- They do not deserve to be victimized.
- People do care about them.
- Health care professionals support their decisions.
- Patients can envision themselves in a non-violent environment.
- Resources and referrals are available.

Jobs for Professionals

- Engage in conversations with women.
- Know the available resources
- If you have a life of your own, realize that she can too!