

MEDICAL ADVOCACY

The Medical Advocacy Program (MAP) at Women's Center & Shelter has been active for more than 15 years. Our highly trained Medical Advocates are available to meet with victims, both male and female, at any point where they enter the healthcare system: emergency room, OB/GYN, mental health, etc. Advocates offering information, support and crisis intervention can be accessed by calling our 24 hour hotline.

Women's Center has Domestic Abuse Teams (DAT) at UPMC Shadyside and Mercy Hospitals. **We need you** to join us in our mission **to end intimate partner abuse in the lives of women and their children.**



Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh

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Medical Advocacy: 412-687-8017 ext. 351
Administration: 412-687-8017
Hotline: 412-687-8005
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Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh

**COULD YOUR
PATIENT BE A
VICTIM OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE?**

*Screening and Response
to Domestic Violence for
Medical Professionals*

Provided by the
Medical Advocacy
Program at Women's
Center & Shelter

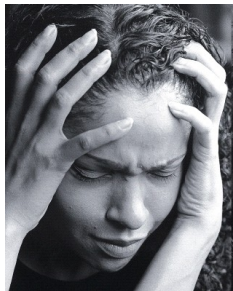
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INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that may include inflicted physical injury, psychological abuse, sexual assault, progressive social isolation, stalking, deprivation, intimidation and threats. These behaviors are perpetrated by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship with an adult or adolescent, and are aimed at establishing control by one partner over the other.

IPV is a health problem of enormous proportions. It is estimated that

between 20 and 30% of women and 7.5% of men in the United States have been physically and/or sexually abused by an intimate partner at some point in their adult lives.



MEDICAL ADVOCACY

Domestic Violence Screening Trainings are provided to medical practitioners by Women's Center & Shelter's (WC&S) experienced Medical Advocacy team. WC&S staff is available to attend in-service, departmental meetings or small gatherings. Additionally, our trainers can work with the education department at your facility to coordinate Continuing Education Units for professionals.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Identify and respond to victims in a healthcare setting.
- Increase comfort level around screening for domestic violence.
- Have a basic understanding of safety planning, lethality assessments and appropriate referrals.
- Documentation.

Largely due to the costs and impact of domestic violence, the average cost of health care services for women exceeds twice the average cost for men, according to a study conducted by the Center for Disease Control. The study also found that domestic violence against women results in more emergency room visits and inpatient hospitalizations, including a much greater use of physician services.

Routine inquiry of all patients, as opposed to indicator-based assessment, increases opportunities for both identification and effective interventions, validates intimate partner violence as a central and legitimate health concern, and enables providers to assist both patients and their children.

In 2004, JCAHO instituted new standards for hospitals on how to respond to domestic violence victims. An active Medical Advocacy Program can



assist you in complying with these standards, which include staff training on assessing all patients for IPV, and responding appropriately to those who are victims.

When victims are identified early, providers may be able to break the isolation and coordinate with a Medical Advocate to help patients understand their options, live more safely within the relationship, or safely leave the relationship.

**PLEASE CALL SO WE
CAN BRING THIS VITAL
PROGRAM TO YOUR
FACILITY TODAY**