1 Partner Abuse Policy

Purpose

The policy provides guidelines for the development of service specific pathways relating to the identification and management of the partner abuse screening programme.

Scope

Routine Screening

The policy applies to all CDHB employees with clinical care responsibilities who will be trained to provide routine screening for partner abuse of all female patients/clients aged 16 years and over accessing CDHB healthcare services.

The policy also pertains to female parents/carers of children accessing CDHB healthcare services.

Indicator-Based Screening

The policy applies to all CDHB employees with clinical care responsibilities to provide screening for partner abuse of male patients/clients aged 16 years and over accessing CDHB healthcare services who present with signs and/or symptoms of partner abuse.

The policy also pertains to male parents/carers of children accessing CDHB healthcare services.

Children/Young People 0–17 years

In all cases where children/young people under the age of 17 years disclose, witness or present with indicators of family violence, when accessing CDHB healthcare services, staff must refer to the CDHB Child Protection Policy.

Associated Documents

CDHB Clinical Board Policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Child Guardianship/Kaitiakitanga Policy
- Elder Abuse Policy
- Co-ordinated Care Planning for Patients/Consumers Policy
CDHB Organisational Documents

- Memorandum of Understanding, CDHB, Child Youth & Family and NZ Police 2008

Legislation

- Children, Young Persons & Their Families Act 1989
- Domestic Violence Act 1995
- Harassment Act 1997
- Care of Children Act 2004
- Victims’ Rights Act 2002

Training of Staff

All CDHB staff with clinical care responsibilities are required to undertake partner abuse intervention training. The training will consist of:

- A four hour training session including pre and post training questionnaires.
- Refresher training as per divisional requirements
- Advanced trained will be offered to designated staff.

Each service will endeavour to release senior staff for training in the first instance to enable them to provide support for frontline staff.

Responsibilities

Executive Responsibilities

- Ensure there are organisation-wide policies for the appropriate response to and management of partner abuse
- Support initial partner abuse training for all clinical staff in CDHB healthcare services and regular updates in the responsibilities and actions as required by the policy and procedures
- Ensure that the partner abuse policy and procedures comply with legislative requirements, the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, clinical audits and best practice standards
- Ensure organisation-wide procedures exist to provide appropriate, adequate support for and supervision of staff affected by partner abuse.
Departmental and Service Provider Responsibilities:

- All CDHB departments and service providers are to ensure that staff responsible for clinical care of patients/clients will be familiar with and adhere to the Partner Abuse policy and the Family Violence policy
- Ensure clinical care staff attend training regarding partner abuse
- Ensure staff follow the brief intervention model for screening of partner abuse as outlined in the procedures section
- Ensure interventions for patients/clients who present with a positive screen follow Partner Abuse procedures section
- Ensure reporting and auditing procedures to the FVIP-PA Coordinator are effected
- Ensure staff as victims or perpetrators of partner abuse are supported
- Ensure support systems and/or supervision is available for staff when a patient/client has a positive screen for family violence.

Employee Responsibilities

All health professionals employed by the CDHB who are associated with the clinical care of patients/clients have a responsibility for the safe management of identified and suspected cases of child, partner and elder abuse.

Responsibilities include:

- To be conversant with the CDHB Family Violence Policy, CDHB Child Protection Policy and the CDHB Policy and Procedures for Partner Abuse and Elder Abuse
- To be conversant with the Ministry of Health Family Violence Guidelines and Elder Abuse and Neglect Guidelines
- To attend initial training, refresher training and regular updates relevant to their area of work
- To identify, assess, manage and refer victims of abuse and document all actions taken
- To provide or access CDHB specialist services as per procedures
CDHB Child and Partner Abuse Steering Group Responsibilities

- Meet on a regular basis as agreed in the CDHB Family Violence Child and Partner Abuse Steering Group Terms of Reference, 2010
- To support and guide the planning, development, implementation, management and evaluation for the CDHB Family Violence programmes
  - Policies and procedures
  - Information technologies and documentation
  - Projects initiated within the CDHB
- To analyse systems and collaboratively work towards best practice standards

FVIP-Partner Abuse Co-ordinator Responsibilities

- Review Family Violence policy and Partner Abuse policy and procedure as required
- Coordinate a CDHB-wide systems response to partner abuse
- Develop a training plan and ensure initial refresher and advanced training of staff is available cyclically
- Ensure documentation, audit and evaluation tools are in place and accessible to staff for the recording of positive partner abuse screenings
- Ensure regular audits occur in services where screening occurs
- Ensure regular audits occur with relevant partner agencies (for example, Women’s Refuges) to assess the effectiveness of the programme
- Access and provide resources required to support the programme and make these available for staff and patients/clients in all CDHB clinical care settings
- Develop functional internal and external relationships with key stakeholders (government, local government and community based organisations).
- Provide support and advice to CDHB staff regarding family violence matters and specifically partner abuse.
Partner Abuse Resources:

All clinical areas and public areas within the CDHB will display information, brochures and posters pertaining to accessing support and interventions for partner abuse. These must be provided in a range of languages that reflect the cultural diversity of the wider Canterbury region and replenish/update on a regular basis.

References

- He Korowai Oranga Maori Health Strategy, Ministry of Health, 2002