

ABUSE

The five letter word no one wants to think about.

IDENTIFYING FORMS OF ABUSE

Forms of Abuse:

- **Neglect:** a form of physical abuse involving depriving the person of needed medical services or treatment; failing to provide food, clothing, hygiene and other basic needs.
- **Emotional:** humiliation, harassment, ridicule and threats of being punished; includes being deprived of needs such as food, clothing, care, a home or a place to sleep.
- **Münchhausen Syndrome by Proxy (MSP):** a pattern of behavior in which caretakers deliberately exaggerate and/or fabricate and/or induce physical and/or psychological-behavioral mental health problems in others. This pattern of behavior constitutes a separate kind of maltreatment (abuse/neglect) that manifests as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect or a combination. The primary purpose of this behavior is to gain some form of internal gratification, such as attention, for the perpetrator.
- **Material:** misusing a person's personal property or finances for personal gain.
- **Physical:** grabbing, hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, pinching, hair pulling or beating. Also includes corporal punishment (punishment inflicted on the body).

Steps to be taken by patient care providers if abuse is suspected:

- Recognize it
- Document, document, document
- Report to the Primary Nurse/Case Manager
- Take pictures
- Offer information such as pamphlets, brochures, and/or phone numbers for resources or agencies that can provide assistance
- If the patient is a child, report to the Tennessee Department of Children's Services at 1 (800) 237-0004

Steps to be taken by non-patient care providers if abuse is suspected:

- Report to Manager or Shift Leader immediately
- Report to the Tennessee Department of Children's Services at 1-800-237-0004