



Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation 2023

This course covers:

- General Overview
- Recognizing the Symptoms
- Policy and Reporting



Objectives/Key learning points



At the end of this course you will be able to:

- 1 Describe the major types of abuse, neglect and exploitation
- 2 Recognize the general signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- 3 Identify key risk factors and specific signs for children, elderly, and domestic partners
- 4 Locate policies for and know how to report suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation



Define abuse

Abuse: Intentionally treat in a harsh or harmful way or in a way that causes damage

Anyone can be a victim of abuse, but children, women, and the elderly are exceptionally vulnerable to abuse.

While abuse is usually not confined to one form of abuse, we'll look at some individually.

The infliction of anguish, pain or distress ranging from insults, verbal assaults, humiliation, harassment or intimidation to threats

Emotional abuse

Sexual abuse

Physical abuse



Click the arrow to continue.



Define abuse

Abuse: Intentionally treat in a harsh or harmful way or in a way that causes damage

Anyone can be a victim of abuse, but children, women, and the elderly are exceptionally vulnerable to abuse.

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Intentional infliction of physical force that may result in bodily injury, pain or impairment

Physical abuse

Emotional abuse

Sexual abuse



Click the arrow to continue.



Define abuse

Abuse: Intentionally treat in a harsh or harmful way or in a way that causes damage

Anyone can be a victim of abuse, but children, women, and the elderly are exceptionally vulnerable to abuse.

While abuse is usually not confined to one form of abuse, we'll look at some individually.

Consists of any sexual threats, inappropriate remarks, unwanted touching/fondling or other sexual activity that is inflicted upon another

Sexual abuse



Physical abuse

Emotional abuse

Click the arrow to continue.

Other abuses



continue

Spiritual Abuse – Using a person’s religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate, dominate or control them

It may include preventing someone from engaging in spiritual or religious practices, or ridiculing their beliefs.



continue

Material & Financial Abuse – The illegal and/ or improper use of funds, property or assets
Examples include:

- Withholding money that is necessary to buy food or medical treatment
- Forging signatures/cashing personal checks
- Misusing or stealing money or possessions
- Improper use of conservatorship, guardianship or power of attorney



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Stalking – The harassment of, threatening, another person, especially in a way that haunts the person physically or emotionally in a repetitive and devious manner

Cyber Stalking – The use of telecommunication technologies such as internet or email to stalk another person

Stalkers employ a number of threatening tactics including:

- Repeated phone calls, sometimes with hang up
- Following or tracking near a victim's home, workplace, or en route to another destination
- Finding the person through public records, online searching or paid investigations



Cyber stalking can advance to real stalking and to physical violence.

Stalking is unpredictable and should always be considered dangerous.



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Define Neglect

Active neglect: The caregiver/parent intentionally does not meet the needs of the person in their care.

Passive neglect: The parent/caregiver unintentionally fails to meet the needs of the person in their care, often due to other burdens or lack of knowledge of how to appropriately provide care.

Self neglect occurs when a person fails to meet their own physical, psychological and/or social needs.



A more extreme form of neglect is abandonment in which the individual who assumed responsibility for providing care to a child or elder deserts them.

continue

Define Exploitation

Exploitation: The action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit or profit from the resources (money, influence, body) of the other

May include:

- Intentionally withholding someone's own financial resources
- Taking control of an adult's financial resources or property through the use of undue influence, coercion, or duress
- Tricking, misleading or defrauding someone into agreeing to pay for goods or services they don't need or benefit someone else



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What are the signs?

Chances are that you will never see the whole picture or all of the signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Maybe you can only hear what someone says, see a pattern change in the paperwork, or notice a suspicious behavior. Knowing some of the general signs to recognize is the start of being the help someone may need.

Use the arrows to scroll right and left. Read all the sections, in both directions to activate a next button.



Physical abuse

Signs may include:

- Bruises, fading bruises, welts, lacerations, cigarette burns/blisters, or other marks
- Bone fractures
- Lab reports indicating medication overdose or under utilization of prescribed drugs
- Sudden changes in behavior
- Caregiver refusal to allow visitors

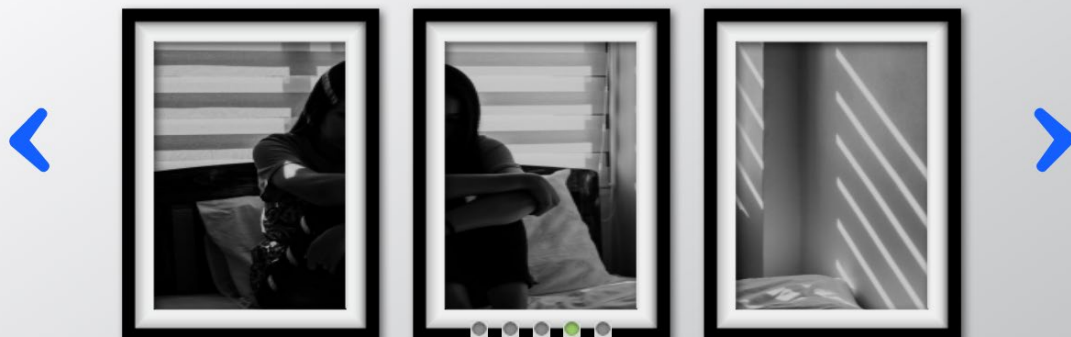


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Sexual abuse

Signs may include:

- Bruises around the breasts and genital area; unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
- Unexplained venereal diseases/genital infections
- Unexplained pregnancy in a child (usually under the age of 14)



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Emotional abuse

Signs may include:

- Being extremely withdrawn
- Non-responsive
- Passive behavior
- Unusual behavior (e.g. sucking, rocking, biting, etc.)



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Neglect

Signs may include:

- Injury that has not been cared for properly
- Dehydration or malnutrition without illness-related cause
- Soiled clothing, bed, or body
- Withdrawn, depression, non-responsiveness
- Pressure ulcers (mostly in elderly or severely handicapped)



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Exploitation

Signs of financial exploitation appear similar to material & financial abuse and may also include:

- Unpaid bills despite financial ability to pay
- Sudden changes in banking practices
- Missing funds or valuables
- Altered wills and trusts or no access to own funds



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Recognizing specific signs



Child abuse

Review



Elder abuse

Review



Domestic abuse

Review

Finish Section



What puts a child at risk?

All of the causes of child abuse are not known, but a significant amount of research points to several factors that put children at risk. There are many reasons why some people have difficulty meeting the demand of parenthood including:

- Immaturity and unrealistic expectations
- Unmet emotional needs
- The stress of child care
- Economic crisis
- Domestic violence
- Lack of parenting knowledge
- Difficulty in relationships
- Depression or other mental health problems
- Drug or alcohol problems

None of which are the fault of the **child.**

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Recognizing the signs

Because of the dynamics in the parent-child relationship it is important to notice the signs in a child who is abused, but to also recognize some of the signs of the abuser.



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Consider the possibility of physical and/or emotional abuse when...

The child:

- Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parent's attention.
- Has learning problems that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes.
- Is overly compliant, passive or withdrawn.
- Seems frightened of the parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home
- Has attempted or talked about suicide

The adult:

- Offers conflicting, unconvincing or no explanation for the child's injury.
- Denies the existence of or blames the child for the child's problems in school or at home.
- Demands a level of physical or academic performance the child cannot achieve
- Uses harsh physical discipline and/or asks teachers or other caretakers to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves
- Refuses to consider offers of help for the child's problems

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Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when...

The child:

- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities
- Has difficulty walking or sitting
- Reports nightmares or bedwetting
- Experiences a sudden change in appetite
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or other adult caregiver

The adult:

- Is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex.
- Is jealous or controlling with family members.

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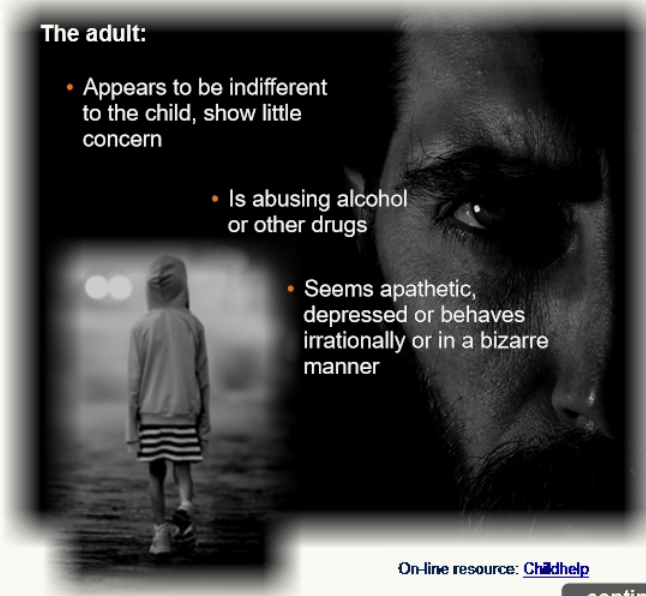
Consider the possibility of neglect when...

The child:

- Is frequently absent from school
- Begs or steals food or money
- Lacks medical care
- Is consistently dirty or has severe body odor
- Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather or the season
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs
- States there is no one home to provide care

The adult:

- Appears to be indifferent to the child, show little concern
- Is abusing alcohol or other drugs
- Seems apathetic, depressed or behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner



On-line resource: [Childhelp](#)

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What puts an elder at risk?



Elder abuse can occur anywhere; in their own home, in the home of family, in nursing homes or other institutions. It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races.

- Based on available information, women and older elders are more likely to be victimized.
- Dementia is a significant risk factor.
- Mental health and substance abuse issues, both abusers and victims, are risk factors.
- Isolation can contribute to risk.

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Physical Abuse – Slap marks, unexplained bruises, most pressure marks and certain types of burns or blisters such as cigarette burns

Financial Abuse/Exploitation – Sudden change in finances and accounts, altered wills and trusts, unusual bank withdrawals, checks written as loans or gifts and loss of property

Neglect – Pressure ulcers, filth, lack of medical care, malnutrition or dehydration

Emotional Abuse – Withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness or other behavioral changes

Sexual Abuse – Bruises around the breasts or genital area and unexplained sexually transmitted diseases

On-line resource: [Eldercare Locator](#)

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What puts a partner at risk?

Unfortunately, individuals in every community are affected by domestic abuse. There is no specific cause for domestic violence, although at highest risk are women with male partners who:

- Abuse drugs (especially alcohol)
- Are unemployed
- Have not graduated from high school
- Are or have been in a romantic relationship with the victim

Research also shows that those who grew up in a household in which domestic violence took place are more likely to become either perpetrators or victims of intimate partner violence as adults.



Nobody deserves to be abused... **Nobody.**

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What is domestic abuse?

- Willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another
- Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior and thus is part of a systemic pattern of dominance and control
- Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma and sometimes death



On-line resources: [Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men](#)
[Women's Law Initiative](#)
[Love Doesn't have to Hurt Teens](#)
[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

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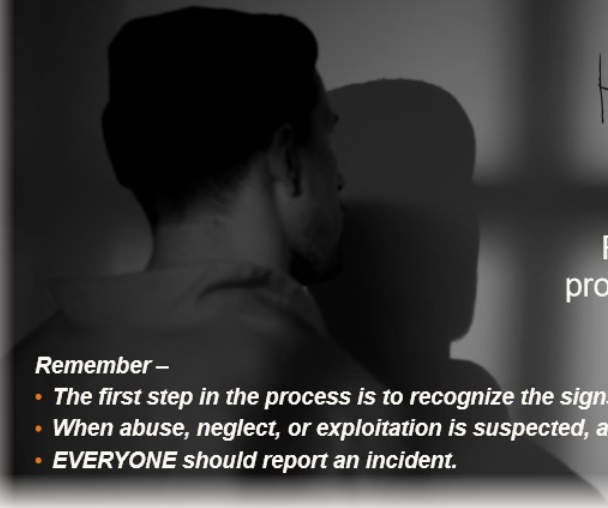
Intervention – General Considerations

- Intervene immediately when you suspect abuse, neglect, exploitation.
- The primary concern is protecting the victim.
- If someone is in immediate, life-threatening danger, contact local authorities per Optum emergency procedures.
- Witnessed abuse must be documented and investigated accurately. The sooner it is documented the more accurate the information will be.
- The incident should be reported to the legal department and appropriate state and local authorities.



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Reporting the incident



HELP ME

Review the policies and procedures in the *Resources*

Remember –

- *The first step in the process is to recognize the signs.*
- *When abuse, neglect, or exploitation is suspected, action must be taken.*
- **EVERYONE** should report an incident.

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Thank you for your participation today.



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