

A BRIEF LOOK AT -

ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION



You must be aware of your patient's safety at home including his/her safety from harm done by others. This harm is called abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

DEFINITIONS from § 48.002 of the Human Resources Code:

Abuse: includes the negligent or wilful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical or emotional harm or pain to an elderly or disabled person by the person's caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the person ...



Neglect: the failure to provide for one's self the goods or services, including medical services, which are necessary to avoid physical or emotional harm or pain or the failure of a caretaker to provide such goods or services.

Exploitation: includes the illegal or improper using of an elderly or disabled person's resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain without the informed consent of the individual...



If you suspect that your patient is being abused, neglected or exploited, you **MUST** report it to both the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. The telephone numbers are in the Agency's Policy Manual. Also, report it to your supervisor and document it.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Abuse - bruises, especially in the shape of fingers or a belt; burns, lacerations, sudden difficulty walking or sitting, the individual appears fearful of the primary caregiver or withdraws from him/her.



Neglect - dehydration or hunger because fluids and food are being withheld, new pressure ulcers, physical problems because meds are being withheld, absence of aids such as eyeglasses and hearing aids.

Exploitation - Does the patient express fear or anxiety when discussing finances? Does s/he mention that a relative has been expressing an interest in his/her finances? Do the caregiver and patient resist assistance that costs money?

If you're attentive to the signs, you may help to keep you patient out of harm's way!

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QUIZ

1. Abuse means infliction of injury that results in bodily harm.
 True
 False

2. Neglect means failing to give goods or services.
 True
 False

3. Exploitation means improper use of the patient's resources.
 True
 False

4. Bruises, dehydration, and fear or anxiety could be signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
 True
 False

Signature _____ Date _____

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ANSWER KEY

1. TRUE
2. TRUE
3. TRUE
4. TRUE