REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
EMT – Basic, EMT – Intermediate, EMT – Paramedic

SMO: Abuse: Spousal/Geriatric

Overview: The severity of abuse may range from minor injuries to lethal acts. Elder neglect and abuse includes any conditions, situations, or physical evidence which cause suspicion that an elderly person has been mistreated, cared for inadequately, or exploited. Neglect or abuse may be of a physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial nature.

INFORMATION NEEDED
__ History of abuse
__ Initial assessment of patient
__ Focused assessment of patient

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS
Physical Indicators of abuse
__ Bruises/welts/lacerations
__ Injuries that are unexplained/poorly explained/incompatible with the explanation
__ Burns shape and size often reflect object used to burn
__ Repeated injuries
__ Frequent hospitalization
__ Repeated use of Emergency Department services for injury
__ Discrepancies between history and presenting illness
__ Time delay between injury and coming to hospital (1-2 days)
__ Reluctance to discuss circumstances surrounding injury
__ Unexplained injuries
__ Alleged third party inflicted injuries

TREATMENT
__ Scene safety, notify law enforcement if needed
__ Routine medical and/or trauma care
__ Treat and injuries
__ Should patient refuse care, Resource assistance information should be provided
__ Attempt to preserve evidence

Documentation of adherence to protocol:
__ Types of injuries sustained
__ If local law enforcement were called
__ Resource information given patient

Medical Control Contact Criteria
__ Contact Medical Control for patient refusal

PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Information about shelter and alternatives is available 24 hours per day by calling the **Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233).**

Elder Abuse (All persons 60 years of age or older) must be reported

- Illinois Department of Aging Hotline, 1-800-252-8966.
- In Winnebago and Boone counties, the Visiting Nurse Association of Rockford (VNA) is designated by the Department of Aging to investigate all possible elder abuse cases. A report can be made directly to VNA at 226-1228, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Nursing Home Abuse

- Suspected victims of nursing home abuse or neglect are to be reported to the proper authority as mandated by Illinois State Law PA 82-120, "The Abused and Neglected Long Term Care Facility Residents Reporting Act". This authority is the Division of Enforcement, Illinois Department of Public Health, hotline number 1-800-252-4343.