

SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Effective: 01/07/13
Supersedes: 01/01/11

Protocol: P-050

ASSAULT / ABUSE

SUBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- Mechanism of injury or suspected assault or neglect.
- History of event, including reason for notification.
- Prior history of similar events.

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- General appearance of patient.
- Physical signs of trauma and approximate age of various injuries.
- Willingness of patient and /or caregivers to give history of potential abuse or neglect.

BLS Treatment	ALS Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow appropriate treatment protocol for patient's chief complaint, e.g. head trauma.• Contact appropriate law enforcement agency (see below).• Provide emotional support to the victim and family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow appropriate treatment protocol for patient's chief complaint, e.g. head trauma.• Contact appropriate law enforcement agency (see below).• Provide emotional support to the victim and family.

DOCUMENTATION

- Law enforcement agency notified if indicated.
- Receiving hospital personnel notified.

PRECUTIONS AND COMMENTS

The most important principle in treating abuse/neglect/assault patients is to remove them from harm's way. When in doubt, transport to a Receiving Hospital. If patient meet trauma triage criteria, then transport to SFGH Trauma Center.

For suspected Child Abuse/Elder Abuse/Domestic Violence:

- Confirm law enforcement agency notification and document.
- Transport for further evaluation to a Receiving Hospital if possible. Contact Base Hospital Physician for consultation as needed for non-transport. **PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WHO ARE POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE MUST BE TRANSPORTED.** Enlist the assistance of law enforcement agencies if necessary.
- Notify receiving hospital staff of your concerns and document name of staff notified on chart
- Contact the appropriate agency by telephone as soon as possible to give a verbal report. The agency will instruct you on how to file a written report which must be done within **36-hours**.

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REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- Notify local law enforcement or Receiving Hospital staff and document.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE:

San Francisco Human Services Agency
Child Abuse Hotline
(800) 856-5553 (24/7 number)

REPORTING ELDER ABUSE (age 65 or older):

If the any combination of the following circumstances are present, contact **San Francisco Police Department** immediately to respond to the scene from where the elder/dependent adult was removed by paramedics, regardless of whether it was at home or at an acute care or long term care facility.

1. Evidence of either (a) *decubitis ulcer on the elder/dependent adult, or (b) injuries on the elder/dependent adult that are consistent with falls or an assault, i.e., possible fractures, lacerations, bruises, or signs of inappropriate physical restraint.*
2. Evidence of poor hygiene or living conditions for the elder/dependent adult (i.e., *feces/urine soaked bedsheets or clothing, evidence of dehydration or malnutrition, extreme clutter or filth in the home, extremely bad odors, evidence of human waste that has not been properly disposed of, such as dirty adult diapers, or waste being kept in buckets or by other inappropriate means).*
3. *Identifiable caretaker(s) for the elder/dependent adult, whether or not present at the scene at the time of the paramedics responding.*

The report by the paramedic should be descriptive as possible of the conditions of the elder/dependent adult, and of his/her living situation, including any odors, and the extent of poor hygiene or filth in the residence or facility.

REPORTING ELDER ABUSE AT A LICENSED HEALTH CARE FACILITY BY FACILITY STAFF:

California Department of Health Services
Division of Licensing and Certification
350 90th Street
Daly City, CA 94105
(650) 301-9971 / (800) 554-0353

OR

Ombudsman
(for Skilled Nursing Facility Complaints)
6221 Geary Boulevard
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 751-9788

REPORTING ELDER ABUSE AT HOME OR ABUSE BY A VISITOR OR ANOTHER RESIDENT AT A LICENSED HEALTH CARE FACILITY:

San Francisco Human Services Agency – Adult Protective Services
Adult Abuse Hotline
(415) 355-6700 (24-hour number)

TO REPORT A DEPENDANT ADULT AT HOME OR ABUSE BY A VISITOR OR ANOTHER RESIDENT AT A LICENSED HEALTH CARE FACILITY:

San Francisco Human Services Agency – Adult Protective Services

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Adult Abuse Hotline

(415) 355-6700 (24-hour number)

TO REPORT SEXUAL ASSAULT:

- Patients should be encouraged to be transported to San Francisco General Hospital emergency department for evidence collection *if the assault occurred less than 72-hours prior to ambulance call.*
- Discourage bathing, washing, urination/defecation or changing clothes until arrival at the hospital in order to preserve evidence.