

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HPI	Signs & Symptoms	Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of injury • MOI • Timeline of incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical injuries • Emotional injuries • Recurring injuries • Withdrawal, hostility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional trauma • Behavioral emergency • Traumatic injury • Evidence preservation

	EMR	EMT	PM
1. Provide Adult Routine Medical/Trauma Care - treat life threatening problems with airway, breathing, circulation and disability	•	•	•
2. BE NON JUDGMENTAL AND NON THREATENING Respect and take the patient seriously Maintain privacy. The patient should be interviewed and examined alone Questions should be asked when household members are not within hearing distance The patient must be asked directly if their injuries are a result of physical attack Have a high index of suspicion; battered patients rarely admit the source of their injury Aside from the typical injuries look for: Suicide attempts Depression Substance abuse Hysterics Multiple vague somatic complaints Anxiety Miscarriage Maintain a helping approach and be as non-threatening as possible	•	•	•

PEARLS:

1. Domestic Violence is the MOST common form of violence and the least reported. Domestic Violence is the act of attacking, threatening, harassing or interfering with the personal liberty of any family or household member by any other family or household member, excluding any reasonable discipline of a minor child by a parent or guardian of such minor child.
2. If the victim signs a refusal, inform the patient that EMS personnel are mandated by the State to report all cases of domestic violence to the local police. Document this conversation on the PCR. Also, offer immediate and adequate information regarding services available to victims of abuse, for any person suspected to be a victim of domestic abuse.
3. National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233