

## Phone Numbers

SafeLink

(877) 785-2020

TTY: (877) 521-2601

National Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-SAFE

### Additional Resource Information:

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## RADAR

Use your **RADAR\*** to recognize and treat intimate partner violence.

**R = Remember to ask**

**A = Ask directly**

**D = Document findings**

**A = Assess safety**

**R = Review options**

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MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY  
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE

CAMPAIGN AGAINST



VIOLENCE

For additional copies  
of this card, contact:

Massachusetts Medical Society  
860 Winter Street  
Waltham, MA 02451-1411  
(800) 322-2303  
[www.massmed.org](http://www.massmed.org)

Pocket Resource Guide  
for Physicians

## Facts About Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence can occur in any relationship:

- ◆ Married or unmarried
- ◆ Living together or apart
- ◆ Heterosexual or same sex

Intimate partner violence is the diagnosis in:

- ◆ 12% of all emergency visits by women
- ◆ 15% of women seen in primary care settings
- ◆ 45% to 60% of mothers of abused children

The most dangerous time for a victim is when she or he decides to leave, making safety planning a critical action step.

## Important Interviewing Techniques

Ask all patients:

"At any time, has a partner hit, kicked, or otherwise hurt or frightened you?"

**Do:**

◆ **Ask:**

"How badly were you hurt?"

"Are you or anyone else in danger now?"

"How can you get/stay safe in the future?"

◆ **Document** your findings.

◆ Develop a **Safety Plan**.

◆ **Say:**

"You do not deserve to be hurt or abused."

"I am concerned for your safety."

"Help is available."

◆ **Respect** confidentiality and privacy.

**Don't:**

- ◆ **Don't** ask about violence if others are present.
- ◆ **Don't** blame the patient.
- ◆ **Don't** ask what she or he did to bring on the violence.
- ◆ **Don't** ask why she or he has not left or why she or he keeps returning.

## Key Safety Planning Elements for Patients

**Emergency**

- ◆ If in danger — call police.
- ◆ Plan a safe, rapid exit.

**Protective Order**

- ◆ Carry order with you.
- ◆ Keep a copy in a secure place.
- ◆ Notify police if order is violated.

**Safety at Home**

- ◆ Change door locks.
- ◆ Tell children to keep doors locked.
- ◆ Alert neighbors about protective order.

**Safety at Work**

- ◆ Protective order should extend to workplace.
- ◆ Alert coworkers and supervisors about order and its provisions.

**Other**

- ◆ If you flee, go somewhere unknown to the batterer.
- ◆ Store important items (passport, green card, money, keys, children's documents, etc.), with a trusted person unknown to the batterer.
- ◆ Contact a domestic violence hotline.