Advocating for Seniors…
Home Care to the Rescue!

Presented by:
Laura Seriguchi
Guardian Medical Monitoring

Role of Home Care Nurse

- Patient Educator
- Patient Advocate
- Case Manager
- Spiritual-Aesthetic Communer
Key Skills of Home Care Nurses

- Advanced assessment and evaluation
- Effective communication
- Sound judgment
- Effective documentation
- Flexible and creative/critical thinking
- Self-direction

Why You Are So Important!

- Knowledgeable
- Educated
- Trusted
- Observant
- Resourceful
- Brave
- Convincing
- Caring
- Supportive
- Can-do attitude
- Reassuring
- And you might be the only outsider the senior sees regularly!

Jana’s View
What is Elder Abuse?

- An under recognized problem with devastating and even life threatening consequences.

- Intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that lead to or may lead to harm of a vulnerable elder.

Prevalence

- Research shows 1 in 10 elders may experience abuse

- Only 1 in 5 cases, or less, are reported
Incidents of Elder Abuse in Florida

- 31,241 reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation or self neglect 2011-2012
- 86 incidents per day - 7 days per week
- Source: DOEA Press Release June 2012

“Elders who are victim to physical abuse, caregiver neglect or self-neglect have triple the mortality of those never reported as abused. Early detection and intervention by healthcare professionals in elder abuse cases may lead to decreased morbidity and mortality. Healthcare provider involvement’s paramount, as studies have shown that only 1 in 6 victims are likely to report mistreatment to the appropriate legal authorities.”

Who is at Risk?

- All elders, regardless of:
  - Race/Culture
  - Socio-Economic Status
  - Place of Residence

- Higher Risk Groups:
  - Older Elders
  - Isolated Elders
  - Women
  - Dementia
  - Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Who are the Abusers?

- Spouse
- Family Members
- Personal Acquaintances
- Outside Caregivers
- Professionals

Types of Elder Abuse

- Physical
- Emotional/Verbal
- Sexual
- Financial
- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Self-neglect
What to Look for…

- Physical Abuse
  - Unexplained injuries
  - Broken bones, sprains
  - Failure to take meds
  - Broken glasses
  - Signs of restraint
  - Caregiver’s refusal to see elder alone
  - Delays in seeking Tx

- Emotional Abuse
  - Threatening, a controlling caregiver
  - Humiliation and ridicule
  - Scapegoating
  - Ignoring
  - Isolating
  - Menacing

More Clues

- Sexual Abuse
  - Bruises around breasts or genitals
  - Unexplained STD
  - Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
  - Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
  - Exposure to sex acts or porn

- Neglect: Intentional or Unintentional
  - Untreated weight loss, malnutrition
  - Unsanitary living conditions
  - Unsuitable clothing
  - Desertion at public place

Other Things to Check:

- Is there food in the refrigerator?
- Are medications current and being taken?
- Is the senior comfortable in their own home? Who else lives there?
- Are things missing?
- Who is handling the bills and banking?
- Are home repairs current?
- Are doctors’ appointments kept?
Financial Exploitation

- Significant account withdrawals
- Sudden changes in Finances
- Missing items/cash
- Suspicious changes in legal document
- Addition of names to signature cards, forgery
- Unpaid bills, lack of medical care
- Unnecessary services, goods, subscriptions, etc.

Elder Mistreatment Screening Instruments

- Actual Abuse Tool
- Brief Abuse Screen for the Elderly (BASE)
- Caregiver Abuse Screen (CASE)
- Elder Abuse Suspicion Index © (EASI)
- Elder Assessment Instrument (EAI)
- Health, Attitudes Toward Aging, Living Arrangements, and Finances (HALF) Assessment
- Hwadek-Sengstock Elder Abuse Screening Tool (H-S/EAST)
- Indicators of Abuse (IOA) Screen
- Partner Violence Screen (PVS)
- Questions to Elicit Elder Abuse
- Risk of Abuse Tool
- Screen for Various Types of Abuse or Neglect (American Medical Association)
- Suspected Abuse Tool
- Vulnerability to Abuse Screening Scale (VASS)

Prevention

- **Listen** to seniors and their caregivers
- **Intervene** when you suspect abuse
- **Educate** others
Coaching Caregivers

- It’s ok to ask for help/respite
- Utilize Adult Day Care
- Stay healthy and care for yourself
- Reduce stress
- Seek counseling/support groups
- Get help if substance abuse issues
- Call Helpline

Caregiver Supports

- Alzheimers Association
- AoA Web Site
- Family Caregiver Alliance
- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- National Association of Geriatric Care Managers
- National Family Caregivers Association
- National Organization for Empowering Caregivers

If You Are Concerned

- Call elder often
- Offer to give caregiver a break
- Watch for warning signs
- Help review financial statements
Reporting Elder Abuse

- Mandated for healthcare professionals
- Call APS within 48 hours
- Have all pertinent information ready:
  - Name, age, contact information, gender, circumstances, time to contact, any dangers in setting

Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinators

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The Power to Prevent Elder Abuse

Elder Abuse. Neglect. Exploitation. It happens to your friends, neighbors and family.

To Learn More, Call:
1-800-96-ELDER
(1-800-963-5337)

To Report Abuse, Call:
1-800-96-ABUSE
(1-800-962-2873)

Contacts

Elder Abuse Hotline: (24-hour)
1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)

Domestic Violence Hotline: (24-hour)
1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)

Elder Helpline:
1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337)

Fraud Hotline:
1-800-378-0445

Statewide Senior Legal Helpline:
1-800-955-8771

Long-Term Care Ombudsman:
(For those living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities)
1-800-922-5253

Consumer Services Division:
1-800-525-5090

Financial Services:
1-800-273-8833

National Fraud Information Center:
1-800-876-7060

TDD
(for hearing impaired)
Elder Abuse Hotline number 1-800-453-5145
Elder Helpline number 1-800-955-8771

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