



# **Abuse and Neglect Across the Lifespan**

*As a healthcare provider, know your responsibility.*



**Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare**

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# Joint Commission Standards

RI.2.150

The Joint Commission Standards define the performance expectations, structures, or processes that must be in place for a hospital to provide safe, high quality care, treatment, and services.

RI.2.170

Click the buttons at left to see a description of each Joint Commission standard.

PC.3.10

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# State of Wisconsin Regulatory Requirements

Adults at Risk or  
Elder Adults at  
Risk

The State of Wisconsin defines specific guidelines for healthcare providers related to Adults at Risk, Elder Adults at Risk, and for Child Abuse and Neglect.

Click the buttons at left to see a description of the State of Wisconsin Regulatory Requirements.

Child Abuse and  
Neglect Act  
Mandate

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## WFH Values

### WFH Values

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Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare values of respect, integrity, development, excellence, and stewardship require the provisions of quality, cost effective, compassionate patient care by providing guidelines for identification, evaluation, referral, and appropriate reporting of abuse and neglect across the life span. Treatment will be consistent with the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare Services (1995).

## By Definition

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Select a term:

abuse  
adult-at-risk  
ages  
battering  
child abuse  
child neglect  
elder abuse  
elder neglect  
elder self neglect  
emotional abuse  
emotional damage  
family violence

The following definitions are descriptive to abuse and neglect terminology.

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Policy

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare policies and procedures are in place for managing abuse and neglect issues. Follow your entity-specific policies and procedures.

Click the buttons at left to see descriptions regarding policies and procedures.

Documentation

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Child

## WHEN to Report

### Age definitions for reporting purposes:

- A **child** is defined as less than 18 years of age
- An **adult** or **vulnerable adult** at risk is defined as being 18-59 years of age
- An **elder** is defined as someone 60 years of age or older

Adult and  
vulnerable Adult  
at risk; Elder

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Child

Adult and  
vulnerable Adult  
at risk, Elder

## WHAT to Report

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### PROPERTIES

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For specific guidelines, please refer to your entity specific policy and procedure related to Abuse and Neglect across the Lifespan.

[Click here to view specific changes to the WFH – All Saints policy.](#)

Otherwise, [click here to continue.](#)

### Screening for Abuse and Neglect

Policy change:

- **ALL** patients/clients are screened for abuse and neglect
- **ALL** patients/clients receive appropriate assessment, treatment, and referral as indicated by their individual situation
- The WFH – All Saints policy for abuse and neglect has been changed to include verbal screening of **ALL patients when it is age and developmentally appropriate**
- Verbal screening for abuse and/or neglect by an appropriate healthcare associate should be done in ambulatory settings, physical medicine, and in all areas where nursing is practiced

## Policy Change Impacts Practice

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- Note that the new policy is a significant change from the previous policy which stated that only patients/clients 18-years-of-age or older would be verbally screened for abuse and/or neglect
- Now, patients/clients younger than 18 will be verbally screened. So with the new policy ...
  - Even a child as young as 3 is verbally screened for abuse and neglect if developmentally appropriate

### Reporting of Verbal Statements of Abuse

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- What if a patient/client younger than 18-years-of-age responds that they feel unsafe or are in an unsafe situation?
  - A report **MUST** be completed
  - It is not the healthcare associate's responsibility to prove or disprove the verbal statement

## Reporting Signs of Abuse

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Policy change:

- **ALL** associates are **REQUIRED to report** any observed signs and symptoms which are suspicious of abuse to appropriate nurse, physician, or supervisor
- Note this change from the previous policy which stated that all associates are strongly encouraged to report signs of abuse to the appropriate nurse, physician, or supervisor

The Joint Commission. (2007) Hospital Accreditation Standards. Oakbrook Terrace, IL. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Page 6, RI.2.150 Page 150, RI.2.170 Page 151, PC.3.10 Pages 167, 168.

Abuse and Neglect across the Lifespan draft Policy and Procedure WFH-Milwaukee 9/07. (*currently under review*)

Abuse and Neglect across the Lifespan Policy and Procedure WFH-Racine 9/08.



# **Abuse and Neglect Across the Lifespan**

*Know your responsibility.*



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