

# Health Plus Medical Management Domestic Violence Prevention Policy and Procedure

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## I. Purpose

To facilitate awareness of Domestic Violence Prevention and support the identification, assessment and treatment of domestic violence.

## II. Procedure

The Behavioral Health Coordinator (CSW) will serve as the Domestic Violence Coordinator.

### A. Providers

Health Plus recommends that all Primary Care Physicians and Obstetricians / Gynecologists identify and assess domestic violence that may be occurring in their patient's lives. It is recommended that PCPs and Obstetricians / Gynecologists screen for domestic violence in all new patient visits, annual follow-up, or when domestic violence is suspected, including domestic violence in same-sex relationships.

Health Plus provides guidelines for documenting domestic violence cases or sources for referral or assistance in documenting domestic violence cases.

Health Plus provides resource materials to Primary Care and Obstetrical / Gynecological providers. This information includes materials to aid these providers in the identification, assessment and treatment of domestic violence as well as domestic violence resources in New York City. Providers may access these resources at the following web sites:

- [http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/health\\_humsvc/health/guide/contents.html](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/health_humsvc/health/guide/contents.html) [Link to the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) web site containing **Domestic Violence Intervention: A Guide for Health Care Professionals (2000)**, a convenient reference for practitioners who need to know how to recognize domestic violence and elicit information from victims; document findings and preserve evidence in ways that can be useful to victims; and give practical and compassionate support that empowers victims and helps keep them safe.
- [http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/health\\_humsvc/health/radar.html](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/health_humsvc/health/radar.html) (Link to NYS OPDV web site containing **Health Care RADAR**, a brief, five-step guide to responding to domestic violence victims in health care settings. Includes a ruler for documenting injuries)

Quality Improvement will conduct yearly medical record reviews to ascertain provider documentation of domestic violence screening. (*See Quality Improvement Policy: Medical Record Review.*)

In addition, information regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse can be accessed from the following web site:

- [http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/getinvolved/abuseprevent\\_report.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/getinvolved/abuseprevent_report.html) (Link to New York City Administration for Children's Services)

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### **B. Members**

Health Plus provides domestic violence workshops to the general membership. In addition, Health Plus provides targeted member education to prenatal patients as part of the prenatal program. *(See Outreach Prenatal Program Policy and Procedure.)*

In addition, any prenatal member referred to Health Services is assessed for risk of Domestic Violence during member contact with the Patient Care Coordinator and is referred to community resources as appropriate. *(See Medical Management – Maternal and Child Health Policy and Procedure.)*