

## **Intimate Partner Violence Assessment Tool**

### **1. Assess the immediate safety needs of the patient.**

Are you in immediate danger? Where is the perpetrator now? Is it safe to go home? Do you want the police or security to be notified? Is it safe to take this written information home with you? Will it be safe for you to meet with advocates in the community or would you like to meet with them in one of our offices? **(Respond to the safety needs!)**

### **2. Assess the pattern and history of abuse.**

Assess the perpetrator's **physical, sexual, or psychological** tactics, as well as the economic coercion of the patient. **Document this, including the perpetrator's name and dates of assault(s) if possible.**

### **3. Assess the connection between the violence and the patient's health issues.**

Assess the impact of the violence on the victim's physical and psychological well-being. Have there been other incidents that caused injuries or illness? How is this situation affecting the way you feel and think? How is this situation affecting your health overall? **Document the health impact.** (See documentation checklist).

### **4. Assess patient's safety risks.**

#### **Intimate Partner Violence: is there increased risk of injury or death?**

Risk factors that increase risk of injury or death include:

- possession of weapons
- use or threatened use of weapons
- threats of homicide or suicide
- recent escalation in frequency and severity of attacks
- heavy use of alcohol or drugs
- victim's increased fear of injury or death
- victim is being stalked

Also ask about the children's safety (explain limitations of confidentiality re: child abuse!).

#### **Sexual Violence:**

- Risk of repeated assault or retaliation for reporting
- Infection with HIV/STI
- Pregnancy
- Suicide risk or risk of self-injury
- Hidden internal injuries

### **5. Assess the patient's current access to advocacy and support resources.**

Has the patient used or is currently using community resources like hotlines, support groups, family centers, counselors, legal advocacy or resources etc? How helpful is/was that? What else does the patient need and what else might be available? **(respond/refer)**



