

Response: To the Victimization of Women and Children

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Nursing Network On Violence Against Women: The Second National Nursing Conference on Violence Against Women

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The annual Nursing Network on Violence Against Women (NNVAW) conference was held at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, March 13-15. Approximately 250 people attended, and 50 papers were presented by nurse researchers, clinicians and advocates working in the area of violence against women. The majority of papers concerned research and clinical practice with battered women in a variety of settings, including shelters, prenatal clinics, emergency departments, and the community. Other topics included rape, child sexual abuse, women's experiences in the Vietnam war, osteoporosis, sexual harassment, and victimization of elderly women. A book of abstracts is available through Christine King, NNVAW, Division of Nursing, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

The NNVAW met as an organization at the conference and decided to continue as a loose coalition of nurses and other concerned advocates and health professionals. A second version of the NNVAW directory will be printed in September, 1987. Any nurses working in the area of violence against women are welcome to join the network and be part of the directory. Dues are \$10. per year. Please write to Christine King giving work and home addresses, telephone numbers, and specific areas of expertise. The network directory is available from the same address to interested persons who need nurses as speakers, trainers, consultants, board members, advocates, or coordinators of shelter health care.

Other decisions included: (a) Formation of a steering committee of regional representatives, (b) establishment of an informal newsletter by Laura McKenna, (c) increasing the organization's visibility, including proposals for sessions at the next American Nurse Association convention; and (d) scheduling the next conference for November 1988 in San Francisco (assuming that support is provided for it through an area university and the state and local coalitions against violence). The Network welcomes input from nurses and other concerned readers on directions which the organization should take. We are also looking for ideas to implement our goals to end violence against women and make nursing both more active and visible in that struggle, and contributions for future Nursing Network columns.

Training Manuals and Health Care Protocols

Among the activities of the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women is an ongoing collection of protocols and training manuals for care of battered women in health care settings. Task Forces of the Attorney General and of the Surgeon General of the United States have strongly recommended that such training be instituted for nurses and other health care professionals, and it is clear that these protocols and manuals are needed by communities throughout the country. The following listing can provide a starting point for people who will be training health professionals. NNVAW also recommends involving health care professionals in designing and implementing any such training. Readers who have a manual or protocol which has been developed but not listed here, please send it to Christine King at the above address or to Jacquelyn C. Campbell, along with ordering information. An updated listing will appear in a future column.

Braham, R.; Furniss, K.; Holtz, H.; & Stevens, M. E. (1986). Hospital protocol on domestic violence. Morristown, NJ: Jersey Battered Women's Service. 16 pages. Order from: JBWS, Inc.,

36 Elm St. Morristown, NJ 07960.

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A concise protocol spelling out responsibilities of various emergency room personnel (physicians, nurses, social services, security department). All personnel are given procedure steps for identifying domestic violence victims and documenting injuries (including photographs); specific responsibilities for each group are then given. The nursing role is in assessment and referral only unless a social service worker is unavailable. The outline format of this manual is an advantage in terms of quick reference in the Emergency Department. A disadvantage is the exclusion of nursing references in the bibliography.

A separate booklet, *Hospital Training on Domestic Violence*, which outlines a curriculum for training sessions for hospital personnel, is available from the same authors.

Esposito, C. N. (1986). *Domestic violence: A guide for emergency medical treatment*. Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. 90 pages. Order from: Domestic Violence Prevention Program, Division on Women, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 379 West State Street, CN 800, Trenton, NJ 08625.

A comprehensive explanation of identification, treatment and referral of adult victims of elder abuse. Includes both emergency and inpatient nursing responsibilities (and public health nursing, but only in the case of elder abuse), as well as emergency department physician and secretarial staff, social service department, and security department. Nursing responsibilities are confined to identification, assessment, and referral, but the potential for rapport with victims and their frequent contact with nurses is recognized. Sample reporting forms, an injury map, and consent forms, legal options, New Jersey laws, and community resources for the entire state of New Jersey are included as well as a sample curriculum for training hospital personnel.

Helton, A. S. (1986). *Protocol of care for battered women*. Houston, TX: Texas Women's University. 20 pages. Contact: Prevention of Battering During Pregnancy Program, Texas Women's University, 1130 M. D. Anderson, Houston, TX 77030.

A manual designed for training nurses to identify and intervene with pregnant battered women, but applicable in other settings. A videotape on battering during pregnancy distributed by the National March of Dimes can be used with the curriculum. The manual gives a comprehensive overview of battering, assessment questions specific to pregnancy, a body map for injury identification, references, pertinent Texas state law, and local referral sources. The importance of and comprehensive role of nursing in prenatal settings is appropriately delineated in terms of battering.

King, M. C.; Perry, M.; Ryan, J.; & Campbell, J. C. (1987). *Reaching out to battered women: A training curriculum for nurses*. Amherst, MA: NNVAW.

Order from: Division of Nursing, NNVAW, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

An easy to implement training curriculum designed for use with nurses by staff educators, continuing education departments, and nursing administrators. The manual contains exercises and implementation strategies including suggested media as well as lecture or presentation information. It was specifically developed for nurses, emphasizing the importance of an expanded nursing role, and uses the familiar nursing process format. An advantage is that the curriculum is not limited to any one practice setting. The booklet also contains an extensive bibliography of nursing and health related articles and books.

New York State Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence (1982-1984). Domestic violence training for emergency room personnel. Hospital and emergency room protocol: Identifying and treating adult victims of domestic violence. What to do for an abused adult. (Wall chart.) Albany, NY: Office of the Governor. Contact: Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Mayor Erastus Corning, 2nd Tower, 28th Floor, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 1223.

All materials listed are specific to emergency department professionals. The training manual is a specific curriculum designed for use with films also distributed by the Governor's Commission and is specific to New York State law. The protocol is brief, includes a body map and consent to photograph, and is suitable for inclusion in an emergency department protocol notebook. The last page is a form for local resources to be filled out by each hospital. The wall chart is an innovative idea which can be put on the wall in each cubicle in an emergency department to remind personnel to assess for abuse.

Sheridan, D. S.; Belnap, L. B.; Engel, B.; Katz, S.; & Kelleher, P. (1985). Guidelines for the treatment of battered women victims in emergency room settings. Chicago, IL: Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. \$15-, 51 pages. Order from: Family Violence Program, Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, Chicago, IL 60612.

Written in conjunction with the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network and the Metropolitan Chicago Health Care Council, this emergency protocol is a comprehensive yet practical tool to improve services to battered women patients. It was designed for easy use by busy emergency room personnel, but is applicable to any health care setting. Appendices include complete reproductions of the Illinois state statutes on battering, child abuse and neglect, and the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. Sample policy and procedures, referral cards, injury map, and victims' rights sheets are included, as well as comprehensive referral information and references.

Stark, E.; Flitcraft, M. D.; Zuckerman, D.; Grey, A.; Robison, B. A.; & Frazier, M. D. (1981). Wife abuse

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in the medical setting: An introduction for health personnel. Rockville, MD: National Clearinghouse on Domestic Violence. 54 pages. Order from: NCDV, PO Box 2309, Rockville, MD 20852.

The "classic" in this field of manuals which was designed to help health professionals identify and respond to violence against women. It reports the original emergency department research conducted by Stark and Flitcraft and their associates as well as giving a scholarly, feminist overview. The monograph takes a more longitudinal perspective than the one-time encounter, how and what to do approach of most of the manuals reported here. It is mainly aimed at physicians and medical policy makers in spite of using the language of health professionals.

Varvaro, F. F. & Cotman, P. G. (1986). Domestic violence: A focus on the emergency room care of abused women. Pittsburgh, PA: Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. 44 pages. Order from: Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, P.O. Box 9024, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

A self-instruction training manual designed to provide an in-depth learning experience for nurses in the care of victims of domestic violence. The manual contains a post-test, is nicely illustrated with photographs, and details care provided in shelters. It is specific to nurses but not specific to Pittsburgh, and details primary prevention interventions as well as emergency room nursing interventions. There are both references and a selected annotated bibliography arranged

by subject.

Wilcoxon, M. (1985). *A Handbook for Health Professionals*. Toronto, Canada: Education Wife Assault. 23 pages. \$4. Order from: Education Wife Assault, 427 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1X7.

A useful booklet for health professionals with separate chapters for public health nurses and family physicians. There are also emergency room procedures and a unique section addressing the needs of the health care professional who is also an assaulted woman or an assaultive partner. The section on reporting reflects Canadian law and the resources chapter is specific to Toronto. Response /Vol 10, No 2 (1987) 29