

CC6 Safeguarding and the vulnerable patient

Assessment of these competencies to be integrated during Mini-CEX, ACAT-EM or CbD of clinical modules with appropriate cross-linking. Some aspects of knowledge could be obtained via eLc.

Potential situations in which safeguarding issues could be considered as part of the overall assessment include the following:

- Elderly patient requiring full care presenting with injuries consistent with abuse
- Female (with or without child dependants) presenting after injury from domestic violence, or vulnerable to gender-based issues e.g. female feticide
- Patient with any presentation who has or is suspected of having alcohol or drug abuse, where care or follow up is impacted
- Patient with any presentation who is homeless, where care or follow up will be impacted
- Patient with any presentation who has learning difficulties or mental health condition and reduced capacity
- Any presentation of vulnerable adult where any abuse type is suspected
- Communication with parents where a risk of harm (such as FGM) or possible exploitation is identified
- Communication with parent of child with suspected non-accidental injury, neglect or other form of abuse

Trainees are expected to achieve EPA level 2 (Direct active – full supervision by senior clinician, with prompting/ verbal and actual guidance and help throughout) in these competencies, unless indicated separately in specific clinical modules.

Knowledge/ Skill/ Behaviour	Detail of competency
Knowledge	Understands the signs of physical, emotional, sexual abuse including domestic violence or abuse of elderly and how they may present in ED
	Understands the role of the clinician in identification of dependants potentially at risk due to patient's personal health and substance misuse, including understanding the procedure to be followed when abuse is suspected
	Knows the local policies and procedures and clinician responsibilities when suspected abuse is identified in adults or children
Skills	Is able to identify patients and or other family members at risk of gender-based violence or exploitation, including issues such as FGM

Knowledge/ Skill/ Behaviour	Detail of competency
	Is able to identify elderly patients at risk of malnutrition, dehydration, susceptibility to extremes in temperature
	Identifies and overcomes possible barriers to effective communication, including seeking translators for patients
	Recognises the possibility of deliberate harm in vulnerable patients and report to appropriate agencies
Behaviour	Records findings, discussions and resultant actions/ referrals carefully in notes
	Recognises the duty of the medical professional to act as patient advocate
Paediatric specific competencies	Understands the ways children might present with all forms of abuse, including neglect and emotional as well as sexual exploitation and relevant tools