

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INDICATORS OR RED FLAGS

Patient is fearful of household member or exhibits increased anxiety when member is near.

Patient is reluctant to respond when questioned or hesitates in providing information about how the injury occurred.

Patient is in an unusually isolated, unhealthy, or unsafe living environment.

Patient admits to frequent use of tranquilizers, sleep medication, illicit drugs or alcohol.

Patient and other household members give conflicting accounts of incident.

Patient offers history that is inconsistent with the injury or illness.

Patient presents with multiple vague complaints, such as headache, insomnia, pseudo-seizures, abdominal discomfort, and muscle ache or non-specific pain.

Patient presents with injuries during pregnancy.

Patient complains of trauma without anatomic “evidence of injury.”

Patient exhibits old injuries or injuries in various stages of healing, particularly to the back, neck, and ribs.

Household member is angry or indifferent towards patient and refuses to provide necessary assistance.

Household member refuses or hesitates to permit patient’s transport to hospital.

Household members seek to prevent the patient from interacting privately or speaking openly.

Household member appears concerned about a minor patient problem but not the patient’s serious health issue.

There are unexplained delays in seeking treatment for injury.

Police/EMS have responded to scene previously or repeatedly.