

# INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

A person who experiences Intimate Partner Violence is “anyone who has been injured or has been emotionally or sexually abused by a person with whom he/she has a primary relationship.”

It is an ongoing and debilitating experience.

## SCREENING PROTOCOL: Five Steps Forward

### STEP 1: Ask

**Ask screening question to female patients over the age of 16 regardless of medical condition and also to male patients with indicators of abuse.**

- Talk to the patient alone and in private
- Frame the screening question first then ask a direct question. Examples below:

Framing question —

*“As violence in the home is so common we now ask all patients about it routinely.”*

Direct questions —

*“Are you in a relationship with someone who hurts or threatens you?”*

*“Did someone cause these injuries to you?”*

### STEP 2: Validate

**Validate what’s happening to them and send important messages to the patient.**

- *You are not alone*
- *You are not to blame for what’s happening to you*
- *There is help available*
- *You do not deserve to be treated in this way*

## STEP 3: Assess

Assess patient's safety.

- *“Is your partner here with you?”*
- *“Where are the children?”*
- *“Do you have any immediate concerns?”*
- *“Do you have a place of safety?”*

## STEP 4: Action

Action and referral to ADVANCE.

- Explain help available from ADVANCE advocacy service
- Offer leaflet and suggest referral
- Contact ADVANCE:  
Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm  
*Outside these hours check the on call rota.*  
ADVANCE are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

## STEP 5: Document

Document and Record.

- Obtain patient's consent
- Complete IPV Proforma in accordance with protocol
- Record screening outcome in screening record book

## REMEMBER:

**You can make a positive difference by safely asking the patient about intimate partner violence!**