

Should family violence screening be compulsory  
in New Zealand's' private hospitals?

## What is Family Violence?

- + Family violence is defined as being violence perpetrated by someone with a close relationship to the victim such as a partner or spouse, and includes physical, sexual, emotional and other types of abuse (New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2012).
- + In 2016 there were nearly 120,000 reports of family violence to New Zealand Police, and approximately 35% of females will experience some form of physical or sexual abuse by a partner (New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2017) .

## Barriers To Screening

- + Knowledge about family violence is the biggest barrier to domestic violence screening. The deficits include knowing what violence is, knowing who it can affect or knowing how to seek support (Guillery, Benzies, Mannion and Evans, 2012) .
- + The perception of family violence, many professionals are of the opinion that abuse is only a problem in low socioeconomic areas (Tower, 2006) .
- + Barriers can include lack of privacy, for example being admitting into hospital in a 4 bed room, language and /or cultural barriers (Guillery, Benzies, Mannion and Evans, 2012) .
- + Many nurses and other health professionals feel they do not have adequate or appropriate screening procedures in place (Tower, 2006).

## Current Prevention

- + The Ministry of Health (2002) determined that screening needs to be culturally safe, empower victims, and be able to provide care, protection and information to their victims. To be able to undertake this the staff need education around policies and procedures, knowledge of local supports.
- + The New Zealand Government runs a Violence Intervention Program (VIP) for the DHBs (Ministry of Health, 2018).
- + New Zealand women want more regular and routine screening for family violence (Koziol-McLain, J., Garrett, N. & Gear, C. (2010).

## Where to seek help;

- Shine helpline: 0508 744 633
  - Women's refuge:  
0800 REFUGE (733 843)
- Family Violence Information Line:  
0800 456 450
  - Oranga Tamariki:  
0508 FAMILY (326 459)
- <http://www.areyouok.org.nz/>

**In an Emergency always call 111**

## Recommendations

- + Ultimately, I recommend that private hospitals to undertake domestic violence screening on admission of all patients, and to also have a policy and/or procedure in place for when someone divulges experiencing family violence such as having a social worker they can refer to, or to be able to refer the patients onto the nearest public hospital/social worker to get help and/or support or information for their situations.
- + To do so, it is important to educate the staff and nurses who will be admitting the patients. Nurses need to be aware of their own views of violence, be aware of cultural safety, and must have the ability to be non-judgemental and supportive when their patients disclose this information. They must be able to educate people on the seriousness of their situations, the potential dangers, the harm to any children in the situations, and the avenues of where they can seek help. Not only can help be given to victims but also to perpetrators to stop the violence. It is important that nurses do not disempower victims, and that they give them the power to choose (Ministry of Justice, 2017).

References

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Summary

After a situation in my last placement I looked into family violence screening in New Zealand, and determined there is a large gap where people who only attend private hospitals are not being routinely screened for violence in their home, therefore could potentially be missing out on support and education they need.

I have chosen to make a poster to represent my PECOT question. This is due to it being a visual education tool that can be placed anywhere including staffrooms, hospital corridors, or the back of public toilet doors. I have chosen my images and colours carefully. The main image is to grab then attention of passer-by's, and to emote feelings in the viewer. Then they will read the information on the poor family violence statistics in New Zealand, and the fact that our private hospitals do not have to screen their admissions., but then they will find out how this could potentially be remedied. I am hoping that this poster will get conversations started about our screening processes in New Zealand, so we are able to screen routinely, and regularly like our women want (Koziol-McLain, Giddings, Rameka & Fyfe, 2005). I also chose to include details of how to seek help and/or support for women who the poster helps acknowledge they are in a potentially dangerous situation in their personal lives.

PECOT Category	Information relating to question	Explanation
Person/Population/Problem	Women admitted to private hospitals	In 2016 there were nearly 120,000 reports of family violence to New Zealand police, and approximately 35% of females will experience some form of physical or sexual abuse by a partner (New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2017) these are the numbers for reported family violence, and there is likely many more cases that have been unreported. New Zealand men also experience domestic violence, although it is not as common, therefore I have decided to focus on females for this literature review (New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2017).
Exposure/ intervention of interest	Family violence/domestic violence screening	Family violence is defined as being violence perpetrated by someone with a close relationship to the victim such as a partner or spouse, and includes physical, sexual, emotional and other types of abuse (New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2012). Violence intervention program is being run in public hospitals by the New Zealand Government to promote screening for violence in the home, for early interventions, with a goal to reduce our poor statistics around violence.
Comparison	Public and private hospitals	To determine if the procedures in place in public hospitals should also be compulsory in private hospitals, or if a referral process can be put in place for women seeking help
Outcome	To determine if family violence screening is appropriate for private hospitals.	To discover the barriers to screening for family violence and determine if the positives outweigh the negatives. Why do we not screen in all situations, and if the public are willing to engage in a screening process of questions on admission.
Time	N/A	Family violence is an ongoing issue in New Zealand and can occur at any given point in any relationship. Therefore, I have decided that a time frame is not appropriate to implement into my question.