

VALLEYCARE
OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
POLICY & PROCEDURE

NUMBER: 129
VERSION: 2

SUBJECT/TITLE: REPORTING OF INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PHYSICAL ASSAULT, RAPE OR OTHER ACTS OF SEXUAL MOLESTATION AGAINST PATIENTS

POLICY: Members of the ValleyCare work force have the responsibility to report instances of domestic violence or adult abuse/assault against patients, as required by California law. Any health care practitioner working in a ValleyCare facility that has knowledge of, or observes a patient with, physical injuries that are a result of abusive or assaultive conduct shall make a report to the local law enforcement agency.

PURPOSE: To state the ValleyCare policy for identification and reporting of actual or suspected domestic violence, physical assault, rape or other sexual molestation.

DEPARTMENTS: All

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE: ValleyCare health care providers are responsible for identification of suspected domestic violence, physical assault, rape, sexual molestation, or suspected involvement of a firearm in causing an injury in any person who presents for care. A report shall be made immediately, or as soon as practically possible, to the Sheriff by telephone by contacting (818) 364-3409, after a suspected incident is identified. This includes instances in which the person who suffered the wound, other injury, or assaultive or abusive conduct has expired, regardless of whether or not the wound, other injury, or assaultive or abusive conduct was a factor contributing to the death, and even if the evidence of the conduct of the perpetrator of the wound, other injury, assaultive or abusive conduct was discovered during an autopsy.

The report to the Sheriff's Department shall include the name of the injured person, the injured person's whereabouts, and the identity of any person the injured person alleges inflicted the injury. The Sheriff will make the official report if indicated and will also provide the patient with referral information to seek further assistance. A referral to Social Work should also be initiated for further follow-up.

ValleyCare shall provide emergency care and ongoing inpatient treatment that will ensure the adult's physical well-being. Follow-up activities by the reporting

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health care professional shall include a determination that mechanisms exist, which ensure the health and safety of the adult and any dependent children.

Any health care provider who makes a domestic violence report in good faith is covered by civil and criminal immunity. Health care practitioners cannot apply the “privilege to refuse to disclose” in relationship to any reports filed.

References: California Penal Code Section 11160 - 11163	
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