

Tips for Engaging Health Professionals

Inform health providers that conducting a screening is reimbursable.

Under the Affordable Care Act, all marketplace and non-grandfathered health insurance plans and Medicaid must cover domestic and interpersonal violence screening and counseling. Use Preventative Medicine Services Codes, 99381-99397.

Offer flexible training options.

Health professionals are used to having trainings during a morning staff meeting or lunch break. Be cognizant of demands on health professional's time and tailor your training to meet the needs of a medical practice or hospital.

Share key data to stress the urgency for this training.

"In Connecticut, homicide is the 2nd leading cause of injury-related deaths among pregnant or postpartum women. The unfortunate reality is, most victims don't see themselves as such and won't seek out services. Health providers are in the unique position to intervene and connect their patient to domestic violence services."

Reach out to the right staff.

Most medical practices have an office manager and most hospitals have a medical director, who are responsible for scheduling staff trainings. Be sure to direct outreach efforts, either via phone or email, to this individual. If you have a relationship with a practitioner or staff in that practice or hospital, use that relationship to initiate contact, but be sure to send all communication to the office manager or medical director.

Stress that health professionals do not need to become an expert on DV.

Just like they would refer for anything else that falls outside the scope of their practice, health professionals should refer patients who are experiencing IPV to a domestic violence program for support and services.