

FREDERICK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Emergency Department's LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – “Assess and Connect”

The Maryland Model

Distinguished Achievement Award in Patient Safety by the Maryland Patient Safety Center

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

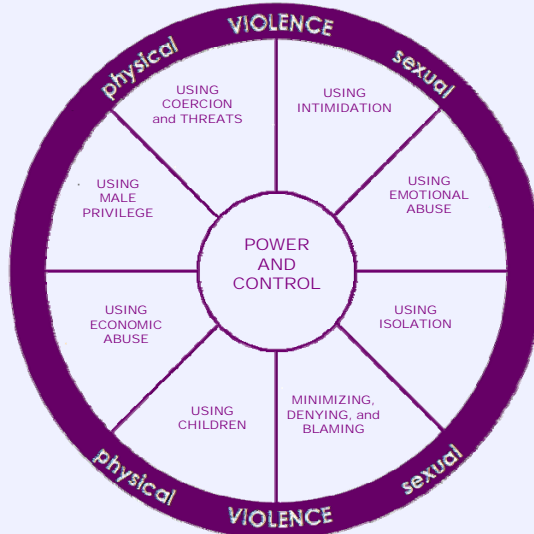
Interpersonal violence occurs to approximately 5.3 million people yearly (mostly women), that can result in death. Historically, FMH treated wounds, but offered little additional assistance. Now we connect our patients with immediate domestic violence services available to help with immediate and/or long-term safety plans, shelter and legal expertise.

METHODOLOGY

FMH is one of two Maryland hospitals modeling a **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)** which has been piloted by first responders in law enforcement since 2005. The assessment tool. The assessment tool was implemented by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) and developed by Dr. Jackie Campbell of Johns Hopkins University.

IMPLEMENTATION

The assessment is part of the Joint Commission STANDARD pc.01.02.09. All ED nurses were educated on assessing patients for **domestic violence**. A workflow was implemented at FMH, providing a mandatory subjective question that must be answered during the triage process: **“Is there any indication, suspicion or belief of possible abuse?”** If the answer is **“yes,”** a LAP form prints from an online documentation record. Protocol requires the patient be taken to a private location to complete the LAP and initiate contact with Hearty House, our advocacy partner.



The Lethality Assessment Program (“LAP”) was for field practitioners to:

- Identify victims of domestic violence who are at the greatest risk of being killed;
- Remove them from harm’s way, if necessary;
- Get victims into domestic violence services.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

One of the main goals of the **LAP** is to prevent *intimate partner* homicides. Over the last three years, Maryland has seen a 41% reduction in IP homicides from:

56 (2007-2008); **45** (2008-2009); **33** (2009-2010); **14** confirmed for this year which ended on June 30th

COLLABORATION AND LEADERSHIP

Teamwork and collaboration was utilized throughout the planning of the **LAP**, by a multi-disciplinary team including the **MNADV**, Hearty House, and FMH (**SAFE** team, directors of the ED & Medical Records, IT, Management, Privacy Officer, TODD, ED nurses). All supported the Hospital and ED’s implementation of the **Lethality Assessment Program**.

SCREENS INITIATED BY HOSPITAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hospital	Lethality Screens Per Pop. (1 LS/yr.)	"High Danger"	Met w/Spoke w/Advocate	Continued in Services
Frederick Memorial	13	07 (54%)	03 (43%)	02 (67%)
FMH - CY 2010 YTD	66	47 (71%)	32 (68%)	17 (53%)
Frederick County Law Enforcement	77	70 (91%)	47 (67%)	33 (70%)

GROWTH

Frederick Memorial Hospital has become the **model** for three additional hospitals in the State of Maryland that are in the process of implementing the **Lethality Assessment Program**. Ongoing consultations ensue.

PATIENT LABEL: FREDERICK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
 DATE & TIME: 04/11/2010 12:17:00
 14000041000000000000

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT SCREEN

Check here if patient did not answer any of the questions.

***A “Yes” response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the greatest referral.**

1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon? Yes No Not Ass.

2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children? Yes No Not Ass.

3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you? Yes No Not Ass.

***Negative response to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the greatest referral.**

4. Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily? Yes No Not Ass.

5. Has he/she ever tried to restrain you? Yes No Not Ass.

6. Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities? Yes No Not Ass.

7. Have you ever had sex or sexual acts together or being restrained? Yes No Not Ass.

8. Is he/she unemployed? Yes No Not Ass.

9. Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself? Yes No Not Ass.

10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers? Yes No Not Ass.

11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages? Yes No Not Ass.

*** Hospital staff monitor cases trigger no provider referral. If staff already required, obtain a consent of the patient's response to the below questions, or whenever the staff member believes the patient is in a potentially lethal situation.**

12. Has anything else that worries you about your safety? (If "yes" What worries you?)

Check one: Patient screened by according to the protocol. Patient screened by based on the level of hospital staff member.
 Patient did not answer any. Patient did not answer any. Yes No
 If the patient screened by: Did the hospital staff member contact Hearty House? Yes No
 If the patient screened by: After advising her/his of a high danger assessment. Yes No
 Did the patient speak with the Hearty House staff?
 Yes No

I consent to the screen being given to Hearty House for statistical and follow-up purposes.

Print Signature: _____

EDV information given to patient
 Lethality Screen added to this health care system, is part of a program administered by The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

©2010. The Lethality Assessment Program is administered by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. This program is based on the best available research on domestic violence and child abuse by a committee of domestic violence experts. However, your doctor cannot guarantee that this program will prevent all domestic violence. The Lethality Assessment Program is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. If you have any questions about your health, please consult your doctor. The Lethality Assessment Program is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. If you have any questions about your health, please consult your doctor.