

# Clinical Management of Elder Mistreatment of Persons Living with Dementia

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April 8, 2022

USC Geriatric Health Collaborative: ECHO Project on Elder Mistreatment

# Abuse Intervention-Prevention Model (AIM)



Mosqueda L, Burnight K, Gironde MW, Moore AA, Robinson J, Olsen B. (2016) The Abuse Intervention Model (AIM): A pragmatic approach to intervention for elder mistreatment. *J Am Geriatr Soc.*

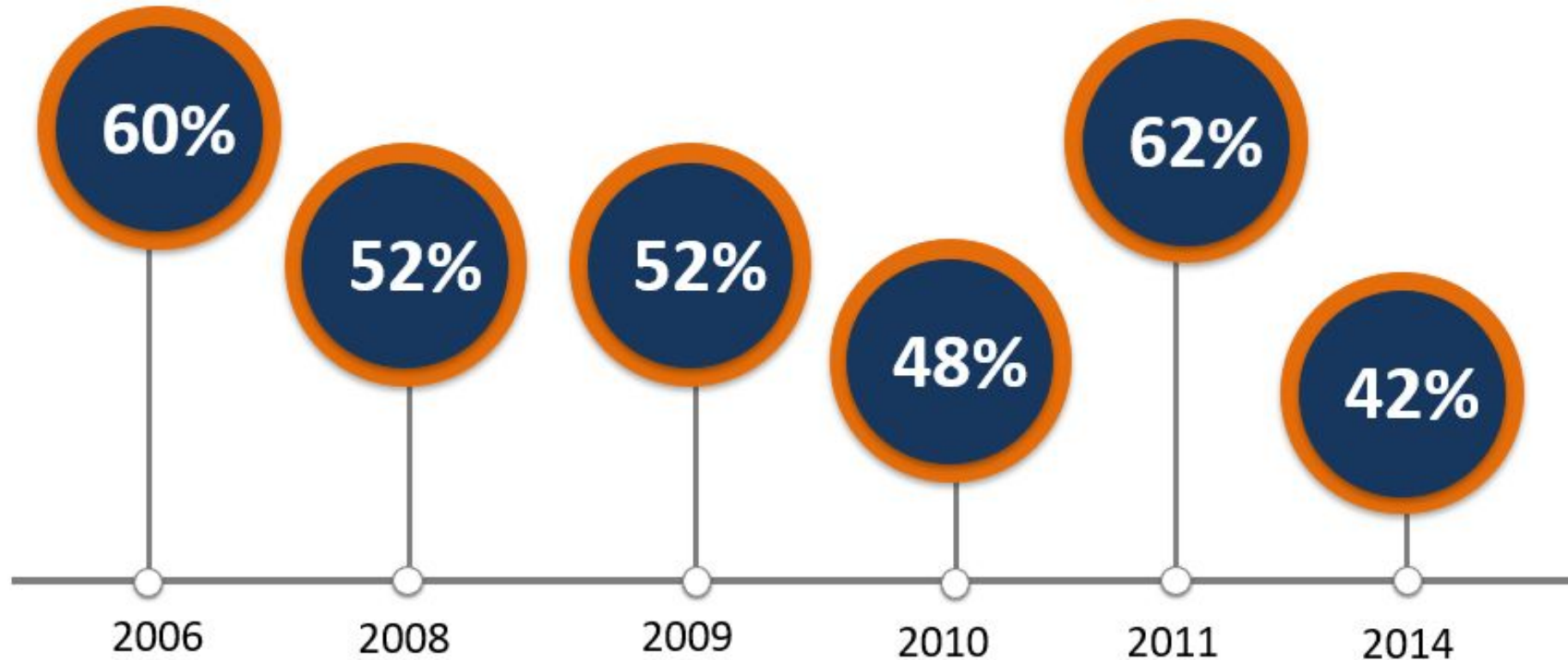
# Cognitive Impairment



# Role of Healthcare Providers

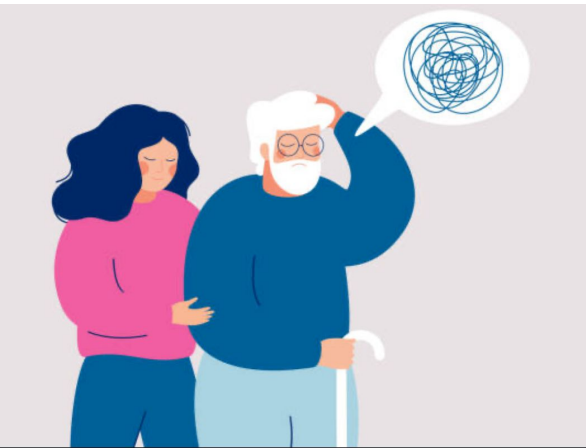
- Medical encounters may be only time victimized adult leaves home/LTCF
- Critical opportunity to detect mistreatment or risk
- Screening
  - Challenge in brief encounters
  - Clinician needs to ask
  - Special issues with cognitively impaired older adults
- May be called upon to complete capacity assessment
- ICD-10 codes for diagnosis and suspicion of adult abuse

# Prevalence: Abuse of People with Dementia



1. VandeWeerd, C. (2005). Book review. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 17(3), 75–77. [https://doi.org/10.1300/j084v17n03\\_05](https://doi.org/10.1300/j084v17n03_05)
2. Cooper, C., Manela, M., Katona, C., & Livingston, G. (2008). Screening for elder abuse in dementia in the laser-AD study: Prevalence, correlates and validation of instruments. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 23(3), 283–288. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.1875>
3. Selwood, A., Cooper, C., Owens, C., Blanchard, M., & Livingston, G. (2009). What would help me stop abusing? the family carer's perspective. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 21(02), 309. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s104161020800834x>
4. Cooper, C., Selwood, A., Blanchard, M., Walker, Z., Blizard, R., & Livingston, G. (2009). Abuse of people with dementia by Family Carers: Representative Cross Sectional Survey. *BMJ*, 338(jan22 2). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.b155>
5. Yan, E., & Kwok, T. (2010). Abuse of older Chinese with dementia by family caregivers: An inquiry into the role of caregiver burden. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 26(5), 527–535. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.2561>
6. Yan, E. (2014). Abuse of older persons with dementia by family caregivers: Results of a 6-month prospective study in Hong Kong. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 29(10), 1018–1027. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.4092>

# Person Living with Dementia



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May be unable to recognize  
abuse

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May be unable to report abuse

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May not be believed

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May not be recognized as  
having a dementia

# Diagnosing Abuse: Pink Flags

- History/Observations
- Interview
- Physical Examination
- Laboratory Evidence



# Screening for Mistreatment in Patients Living with Dementia

For patients who seem able to respond to oral questions:

- Set the stage, develop rapport first
- Ensure confidentiality, ask others to leave the room
- Attend to sensory loss (glasses, hearing aids, Pocket Talker)
- Sit at eye level of the patient
- Maintain eye contact, speak slowly
- Explain why: “Elder abuse is a common problem. I ask all my patients about it and work with them to make sure they’re safe



# Screening

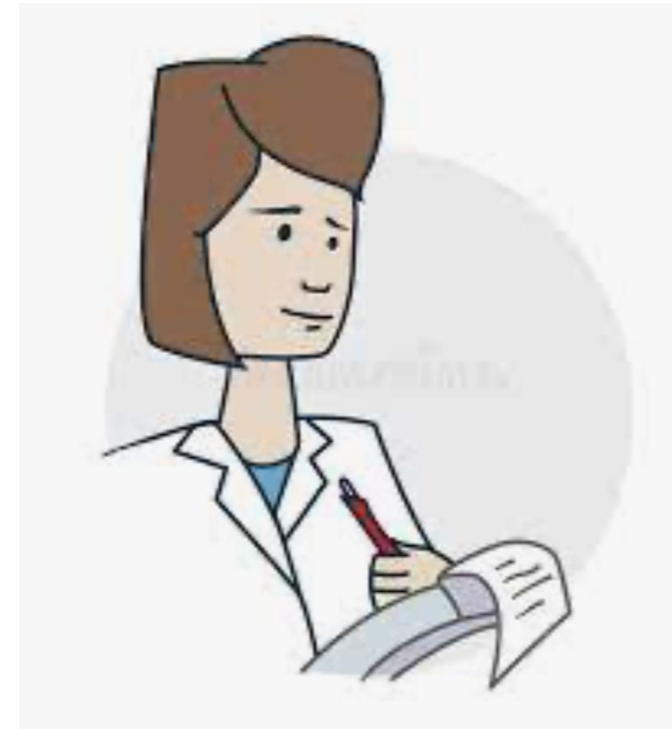


Here's what I ask...

- Are you afraid of anybody?
- Has anybody hurt you?
- Is anybody taking things from you without your permission?

# History and Observations

- Delay in seeking care
- Unexplained injuries - past or present
- Implausible/vague explanations
- Interaction between patient and caregiver



Yaffe, M. J., & Tazkarji, B. (2012). Understanding elder abuse in family practice. *Canadian family physician Medecin de famille canadien*, 58(12), 1336–e698.

Richmond, N. L., Zimmerman, S., Reeve, B. B., Dayaa, J. A., Davis, M. E., Bowen, S. B., Iasiello, J. A., Stemerman, R., Shams, R. B., Haukoos, J. S., Sloane, P. D., Travers, D., Mosqueda, L. A., McLean, S. A., & Platts-Mills, T. F. (2020). Ability of older adults to report elder abuse: An emergency department–based cross-sectional study. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 68(1), 170–175. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.16211>

# Observation Items on the EM-SART Elder Mistreatment Screening and Response Tool

<i>If present, the caregiver appears:</i>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Unengaged, inattentive, or to lack knowledge of the patient's medical needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dismissive of, frustrated with, or hostile towards the patient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overly concerned or anxious about the patient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To have unmet mental health needs or problems with substance use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To lack access to needed resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cannell, B., Weitlauf, J., Livingston, M. D., Burnett, J., Parayil, M., & Reingle Gonzalez, J. (2020). Validation of the detection of elder abuse through emergency care technicians (DETECT) screening tool: a study protocol. *BMJ open*, 10(9), e037170. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-037170>

Platts-Mills TF, Sivers-Teixeira T, Encarnacion A, Tanksley B, Olsen B. EM-SART: A Scalable Elder Mistreatment Screening and Response Tool for Emergency Departments, *Generations*, 44, no. 1 (2020) 51-58

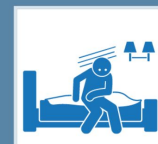
**Understanding the functional status of the older adult helps to understand the risk & context for abuse or neglect**



# Basic Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)

- Mobility
- Transferring
- Bathing
- Continence
- Toileting
- Getting dressed
- Feeding oneself

**Independence  
with ADLs  
predicts  
independence  
in the home.**



# Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs)

- Shopping
- Cooking
- Handling finances
- Transportation (driving or arranging)
- Medications

**Independence with IADLs predicts independence in the community.**

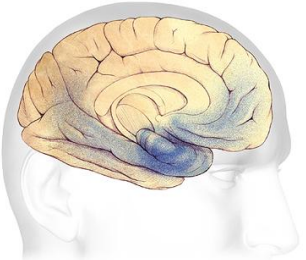


# Early, middle, late stages of ADRD



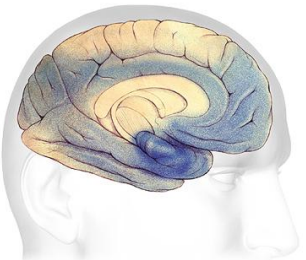
• Early ADRD

□ Financial Abuse



• Mid ADRD

□ Physical Abuse



• Late ADRD

□ Neglect



# Family Caregivers & Risk for Mistreatment

## CG Factors:

- Number of caregiving hours
- Perceived burden
- Depression
- Substance abuse
- Mental Illness

## PLWD factors:

- Severity of cognitive impairment
- Behavior disorders



Serra L, Contador I, Fernández-Calvo B, Ruisoto P, Jenaro C, Flores N, Ramos F, Rivera-Navarro J. (2018) Resilience and social support as protective factors against abuse of patients with dementia: A study on family caregivers. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 33(8):1132-1138.

Fang B, Liu H, Yan E. (2021) Association Between Caregiver Depression and Elder Mistreatment-Examining the Moderating Effect of Care Recipient Neuropsychiatric Symptoms and Caregiver-Perceived Burden. *J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci*. 15;76(10):2098-2111.



# Child Abuse & the Care Partner

- Caregivers of neglected older adults were more likely to have experienced physical neglect and trauma as a child



Fulmer T, Paveza G, VandeWeerd C, Fairchild S, Guadagno L, Bolton-Blatt M, Norman R. (2005) Dyadic vulnerability and risk profiling for elder neglect. *Gerontologist*.

# Family Caregivers

- Reluctant to spend funds on PLWD
- Preserving wealth for heirs
- Entitled to funds now, attributed to caregiving tasks
- Substance misuse
- Mental illness
- Sociopathy



# Contextual Factors

- Previous Relationship with PLWD
- Social Integration
- Cultural Diversity and Disparities





# Prevalence of Elder abuse in Long Term Care

## How Prevalent Is Elder and Vulnerable/Dependent Adult Abuse?

- Nearly **1 in 3 U.S. nursing homes were cited for violations** of federal standards that had potential to cause harm or that had caused actual harm to a resident during the two years 1999-2001. Nearly 1 out of 10 homes had violations that caused residents harm, serious injury, or placed them in jeopardy of death. (2001 U.S. House of Representatives Report)



- In a study of 2,000 interviews of nursing home residents, **44% said they had been abused and 95% said they had been neglected or seen another resident neglected.** (Broyles, 2000)



- Over **50% of nursing home staff admitted to mistreating (e.g. physical violence, mental abuse, neglect) older patients** within the prior year in one study. Two thirds of those incidents involved neglect. (Ben Natan, 2010)
- One survey of certified nursing assistants (CNA) found that **17% of CNAs had pushed, grabbed, or shoved** a nursing home resident. **51% reported they had yelled** at a resident and **23% had insulted or sworn** at a resident. (Pillemer & Hudson, 1993)
- 7% of all complaints** regarding institutional facilities reported to long term care Ombudsmen **were complaints of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.** (NORS Data 2010)

# Resident on Resident Abuse in Long Term Care

## Victim Data:

- 12-23% of resident population were estimated to be engaged in mistreatment
- 18-98% of care staff reported observing
- Physical and verbal abuse were the commonly reported types

## Perpetrator Characteristics

- 83% men, 64% had dementia

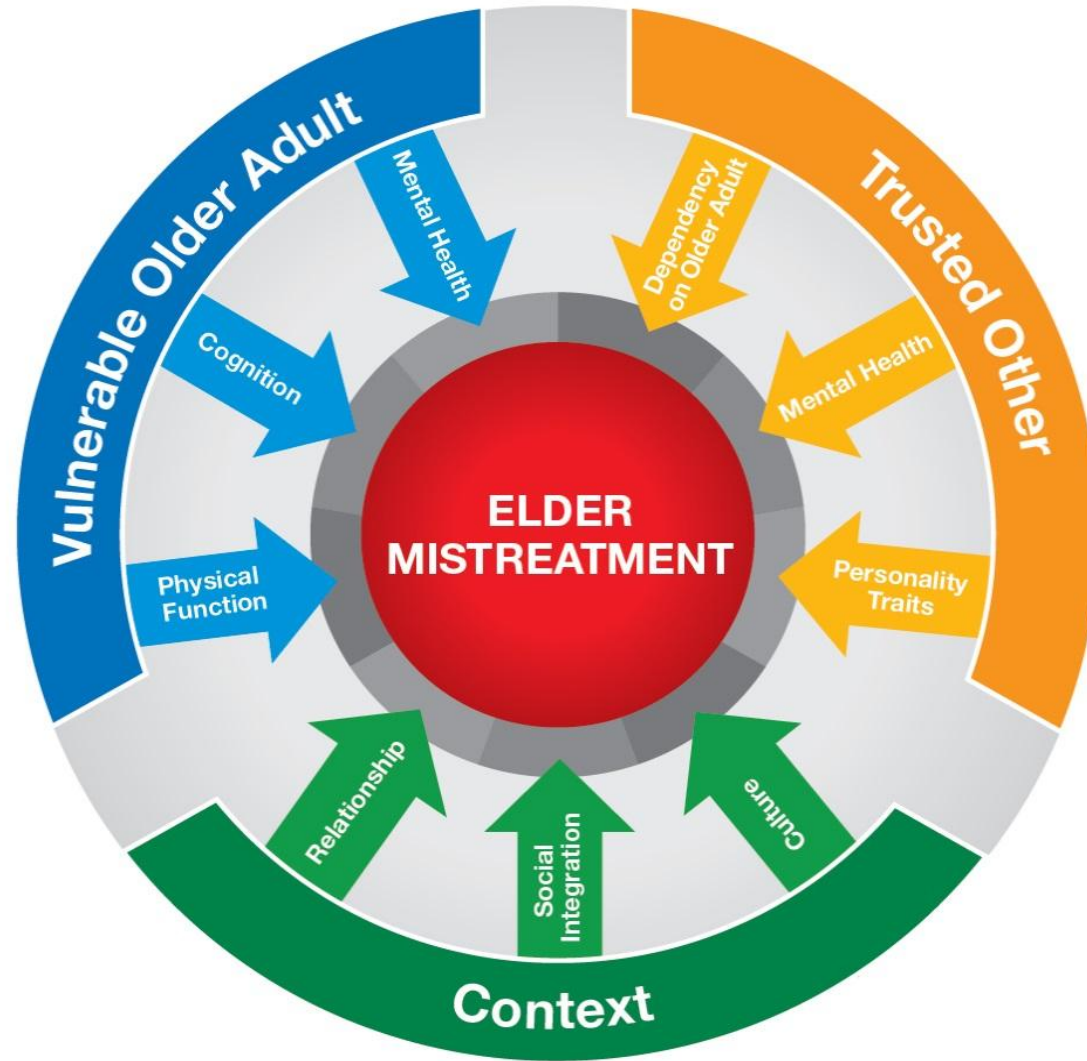
Woolford, Marta H. et al., (2021). Resident-to-Resident Elder Mistreatment in Residential Aged Care Services: A Systematic Review of Event Frequency, Type, Resident Characteristics, and History, Journal of the American Medical Directors Association, Volume 22, Issue 8, 1678 - 1691.

# Practitioner Empowerment in Cases of Elder Mistreatment in PLWD

- Perpetual cycle of non-resolution
- Refocus on legal clarity & intervention vs. legal complexity and education
- Develop adequate infrastructure for interprofessional intervention

Lindenbach J, Larocque S, Morgan D, Jacklin K. (2021) Practitioner Empowerment, Older Adult Mistreatment, and Dementia. *Can J Aging*. Jun;40(2):306-320.

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# AIM Domains

Vulnerable Older Adult

Trusted Other

Context