

Elder Mistreatment Emergency Department Toolkit (EMED Toolkit)

A NEW RESOURCE to efficiently screen and refer older adults in the Emergency Department

THE CHALLENGE:

The prevalence of elder mistreatment has consistently been estimated at 1 in 10 older adults. During the COVID-19 pandemic, one study documented an increase in this prevalence rate to 21.3%. The emergency department may be one of the few places where older adults at risk for mistreatment can be screened and appropriately referred; however only 0.1% of older adults presenting in the emergency department are diagnosed with elder mistreatment.

1 in 5



21.3% of older adults experienced mistreatment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 in 1,000

Only .1% of older adults presenting in the emergency department are diagnosed with elder mistreatment.



"Sometimes you have to dig a little bit to find out what's going on. I can imagine in an ED you don't have time ... but in these kinds of cases you really have to."

— Older adult who experienced elder mistreatment

"...it's the right thing to do to report these things and be suspicious of them and get these people the resources when they're in the emergency department or if they get admitted. And I think a lot of times we were trying to do it. But, like I said, we didn't have this nice algorithm for - what you do when this happens, or what do you do when this happens? [With the Toolkit] we don't have to guess anymore." — Hospital Emergency Center Manager

The EMED Toolkit, **NOW AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD** (<https://gedcollaborative.com/toolkit/elder-mistreatment-emergency-department-toolkit/>), offers free tools and resources to support emergency department clinicians to screen older adults for elder mistreatment, report suspected abuse in line with state mandates, and appropriately refer patients to care.

The toolkit has four key elements:

ED Staff Survey

20 question/10 minute online tool for ED staff assesses current practices and defines priorities for practice and systems change.



Online Training Modules

Interactive online training in how to identify and respond to elder mistreatment.



Screening and Response Tool

Brief screening and response tools to identify at-risk patients and develop safety and discharge plans.



Community Connections Roadmap

A guide for identifying and connecting with community partners that can support patient safety and follow up.



Each element was designed to **fit seamlessly into and with minimal impact on the workflow of an emergency department**, including brief online training and integration with major electronic health record systems.

All materials and technical assistance are free. The toolkit has been tested in a range of health care settings: urban and rural, academic-affiliated and independent, for-profit and not-for-profit.

Use of the toolkit may qualify institutions for Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (www.acep.org/geda/). Hospitals using the toolkit report significant increases in staff knowledge about elder mistreatment and confidence about appropriate detection and referral.

The EMED Toolkit was developed by the National Collaboratory to Address Elder Mistreatment, with funding from The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York.

