### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for identification of suspected abuse victim for care and referral to community resources.

### Policy

### Ohio Living will report all suspected cases of abuse, neglect, fraud and/or exploitation in compliance with appropriate state and federal guidelines to appropriate organizations

### definitions

1. *Abuse* means the willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish.
2. *Verbal abuse* includes the use of oral, written or gestured language that willfully includes disparaging and derogatory terms to patients or their families, or within their hearing distance, regardless of their age, ability to comprehend, or disability.
3. *Mental abuse*includes, but is not limited to, humiliation, harassment, and threats of punishment or deprivation.
4. *Sexual abuse*includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual coercion, or sexual assault.
5. *Physical abuse*includes, but is not limited to, hitting, slapping, pinching, and kicking. It also includes controlling behavior through corporal punishment.
6. *Neglect*means failure to provide goods and services necessary to avoid physical harm or mental anguish.
7. *Misappropriation of patient property* means the deliberate misplacement, exploitation, or wrongful, temporary or permanent use of a patient’s belongings or money without the patient’s consent.
8. *Injuries of unknown source:*An injury should be classified as an “injury of unknown source” when both of the following conditions are met:
	1. The source of the injury was not observed by any person or the source of the injury could not be explained by the patient; and
	2. The injury is suspicious because of the extent of the injury or the location of the injury (e.g., the injury is located in an area not generally vulnerable to trauma) or the number of injuries observed at one particular point in time or the incidence of injuries over time.

### PRocEDURE

1. Any clinician who discovers, within the course of rendering care, any suspected or alleged abuse, neglect, exploitation or fraud will immediately report such occurrences to his/her immediate supervisor.
2. The suspected or alleged abuse must be reported to the Ohio Department of Health by the Executive Director, Administrator or Clinical Team Leader within 5 working days of the alleged violation.
	1. The Hospice Self-Reported Incident Form must be completed on the Ohio Department of Health’s website.
		1. This form is accessed at: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/hospice/resources/HospiceSelfReportedIncidentForm>
3. Verified violations of abuse must be reported to the local authorities and accrediting bodies.
4. If patient is in immediate jeopardy, the proper authorities will be contacted by the clinician immediately as required by state or local law.
5. Reports, reviews, and investigations of suspected abuse/neglect will be held in
strictest confidence.