Elder Mistreatment Emergency Department Toolkit

“I think [the Elder Mistreatment Emergency Department Toolkit] enhances our current practice. And it provides a service to patients that may otherwise fall through the cracks. And so, it’s good for our patients. It’s good for our community.”

— Hospital Emergency Center Manager

THE CHALLENGE:
Elder mistreatment is a prevalent public health problem in the US that has devastating consequences. It can be defined as the abuse or neglect of an older adult by a person they trust, including physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Even as we enter an era of increasing “age-friendliness,” the estimated one in ten older adults who experience elder mistreatment remain largely uncared for and unrecognized.

To respond to this challenge, The National Collaboratory to Address Elder Mistreatment has developed a toolkit for use by health systems and communities to improve the safety and wellbeing of older adults. Focused on screening and referral in Emergency Departments, the toolkit also offers resources for clinicians and health systems to strengthen relationships with community resources that can support older adults after discharge.

“You can’t have an Age-Friendly Health Care System if you don’t address elder mistreatment.”

—Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, President of The John A. Hartford Foundation

If these numbers stay the same, it is estimated that:

7.3 million older adults in the U.S. will be mistreated in 2030

ONLY 4%* of those cases will be reported

*more than 7 million cases will go unreported.
**WHAT'S IN THE TOOLKIT?**

The toolkit has four key elements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ED Staff Survey</th>
<th>Online Training Modules</th>
<th>Screening and Response Tool</th>
<th>Community Connections Roadmap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 question/10 minute online tool for ED staff assessed current practices and defines priorities for practice and systems change.</td>
<td>Interactive online training in how to identify and respond to elder mistreatment.</td>
<td>Brief screening and response tools to identify at-risk patients and develop safety and discharge plans.</td>
<td>A guide for identifying and connecting with community partners that can support patient safety and follow up.</td>
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**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

- **EM-Brief Screen**: Use with all older adult patients.
  - Concern: EM-Full Screen
  - No Concern: ED Care As Usual

- **EM-Full Screen**: Scan this code to learn more.
  - Suspicion: EM-Response Protocol
  - No Suspicion: ED Care As Usual

**WHO SHOULD USE THE TOOLKIT?**

The toolkit is available, free of charge, to any institution interested in improving their response to elder mistreatment. It has been tested in a range of health care settings--urban and rural, private and safety-net, academic and religiously affiliated—and found to be feasible to use and to improve rates of screening for elder mistreatment in every case. The toolkit will be available in digital format in early 2022, in partnership with the Geriatric Emergency Department Collaborative (www.gedcollaborative.com). Use of the toolkit can be counted toward accreditation as a Geriatric Emergency Department.

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL COLLABORATORY TO ADDRESS ELDER MISTREATMENT AND EDC**

With funding from The John A. Hartford Foundation and The Gordon and Betty Moore, The National Collaboratory to Address Elder Mistreatment was founded in 2016 with a charge to develop a scalable response to the prevalence of elder mistreatment. This group is comprised of national experts in elder mistreatment from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School, the University of Texas, and Weill-Cornell College of Medicine, with Education Development Center (EDC) serving as the Collaboratory convener. EDC is a global nonprofit with more than 60 years of experience designing, testing, and implementing innovative programs addressing critical challenges in health, education, and economic inequality.

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