

**Rhode Island Hospital
Standard Practice
Manual**

Subject:
Reporting Suspected Cases
of Institutional Abuse

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Administration
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Clinical Social Work

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Approved By:



William J. Yutovich
William J. Yutovich, LICSW
Director, Clinical Social Work



Gus Cordeiro, Vice President
& Chief Admin. Officer

Policy

It is the policy of Rhode Island Hospital to respond to all incidents involving abuse, neglect and/or violence to patients, to collaborate with the investigation of such incidents with the appropriate State agencies, to ensure protection of and advocacy on behalf of patients and to assist in the coordination of a safe discharge plan.

Procedure

In the event there is an incident of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of an individual in an institution (hospitals, nursing homes, group homes, supportive living, shelters, etc.), the Rhode Island Department of Health, Facilities Regulation Division should be notified. (222-2566 – Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; 272-5952 – all other times including the weekend)

The Attorney General's Office, Medicaid Fraud Unit, (274-4400, ext. 2267 or ext. 2269) also requires notification, though the Department of Health will usually make this notification. When the suspected victim is sixty years or older, we must also notify the Alliance for Better Long Term Care (785-3340) instead of the Department of Elderly Affairs. The Risk Management Department (4-8265) should also be notified when a report is made.

Documentation of clinical observations of suspicious injury or illness should be made by the physician, nurse or other clinician making such observations. All health care providers are mandated reporters and must initiate the above noted reports, but may consult with the Department of Clinical Social Work for advice, direction and assistance in managing the case.

Reports of abuse to any State agency are considered “non-routine disclosures” (refer to Corporate Compliance HIPAA Policy CCPM-61) and must be recorded in the Lifespan DisclosureTrac database system.