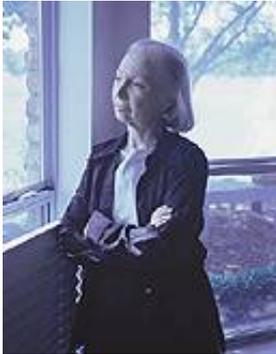


ACOG recommends screening women for elder abuse

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Elder abuse is a prevalent issue and needs to be screened for in women aged 60 years and older during preventive health care visits, according to a Committee Opinion published in the July issue of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

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The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Committee on Health Care for Underserved [Women](#) reviewed published literature and recommendations regarding the prevalence and identification of abuse in women, particularly in older women.

The following are included in ACOG's recommendations: screen all patients older than 60 years for signs and symptoms of elder abuse, starting with open-ended questions and progressing to more specific questions; advocate for a safe environment for all aging women; follow individual state guidelines for reporting elder abuse to Adult Protection Services; provide education regarding elder abuse to patients, family, caregivers, and health care providers; and encourage research on elder abuse and

mistreatment.

"Screening, education, and policy change are the best interventions for the prevention of [elder abuse](#)," the authors write. "Early identification and prompt referral should be part of the preventive [health care](#) visit for women aged 60 years and older."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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