

PROTOCOLS FOR SCREENING PREGNANT WOMEN  
FOR PARTNER ABUSE

All pregnant women shall be asked routine questions regarding domestic violence issues in their lives. A sample of questions that may be used is listed below:

- Is your partner excited about the baby?
- How is your family reacting to this pregnancy?
- How are you and your partner getting along? Is he helping you to complete tasks that you are unable to do?
- How are things at home?
- Is anything preventing you from coming to the clinic?
- Since your pregnancy began, have you been kicked, slapped, or otherwise physically hurt by someone?
- Within the last year has anyone forced you to engage in sexual activities that made you feel uncomfortable?
- Do you feel that you are being stalked by anyone?
- Has your partner ever destroyed things that you cared about?
- We all disagree at times at home. What happens when you or your partner fight or disagree?
- Has your partner ever prevented you from leaving the house, seeing friends, getting a job or continuing your education?
- Is your partner jealous of the time you spend with your family or friends?
- Does your partner drink alcohol or use drugs?  
Is there a gun in the house?

**If yes to any of the above:**

- Would you like help with any of this now?
- Would you like us to send a copy of this form to your DHCP?

The following indicators require timely follow-up:

- Late and/or sporadic access to prenatal care
- Injury to the breast(s) and/or the abdomen
- Divorce or separation during pregnancy
- Vaginal bleeding
- Self-induced or attempted abortion
- Increased alcohol or drug use
- Miscarriage
- Multiple abuse injury sites
- Low maternal weight gain
- Short inter-pregnancy interval
- Poor nutrition
- Premature labor
- Depression or less happiness about the pregnancy
- Suicidal ideation
- Frequent clinic/visits for somatic complaints (insomnia, hyperventilation, etc.)
- Recurrent STDs, pelvic infections or HIV
- Evidence of noncompliance with treatment/care plan

If a case of domestic violence is identified and the woman is willing, the referral process shall be implemented. Alabama has shelters statewide that can provide counseling support for victims of domestic violence. The statewide hotline number is **1-800-650-6522**. If a woman is not willing to call the shelter, the case manager should encourage the completion of a safety plan. The plan can help the woman better prepare for her safety when a violent situation arises.