

BASE

BRIEF ABUSE SCREEN FOR THE ELDERLY



NICE

National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly

Initiative nationale pour le soin des personnes âgées

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THE PROJECT CARE TOOL SERIES

A complement of tools and measures were developed, tested and/or validated for the Project Care abuse intervention model, three of which have been adapted by the Elder Abuse Knowledge to Action Project of NICE – the Brief Abuse Screen for the Elderly (BASE – see the remainder of this tool), Caregiver Abuse Screen (CASE), and the Indicators of Abuse (IOA). Collectively these tools were designed to screen, assess and plan intervention in cases of abuse.

THE BASE – BRIEF ABUSE SCREEN FOR THE ELDERLY

For early intervention to be possible, intake workers must always be alert to the possibility of abuse. They have to make a quick decision on the likelihood of abuse even at first contact. This first contact may be on the phone and may be brief, which is why it is particularly important to have a quick and easy screening method for case identification.

Use of the BASE helps determine answers to questions such as: What kinds of abuse are more common? And, how quickly does intervention need to take place? * The BASE provides a written assessment for the workers who subsequently become involved.

Beyond an initial BASE screening, a second and third screening to confirm or disconfirm the possibility of suspected abuse is most effective when completed immediately following:

- A two-to-three hour home assessment interview; and
- A case conference by a multidisciplinary team

Project Care's research findings indicated that the three successive administrations of the BASE help identify and predict cases of abuse; the incidence of abuse was approximately 9 – 14% of the cases screened among incoming health and social service agency clients.

**The urgency of intervention was found to be on average two to three weeks; urgency was defined by examples such as an immediate call to the police, safety precautions organized or an immediate visit was required.*



BASE

Please respond to every question (as well as you can estimate) concerning all clients 60 years or over who are caregivers (regular helper of any kind) or care-receivers:

1 Is the client an elderly person who has a caregiver? Yes ☐ No ☐

2 Is the client a caregiver of an elderly person? Yes ☐ No ☐

3 Do you suspect abuse?
a) By a caregiver? Comments: _____

1	2	3	4	5
no, not at all	only slightly, doubtful	possibly, somewhat	probably, quite likely	yes, definitely

b) By a care-receiver? Comments: _____

1	2	3	4	5
no, not at all	only slightly, doubtful	possibly, somewhat	probably, quite likely	yes, definitely

c) By someone else? Specify: _____

1	2	3	4	5
no, not at all	only slightly, doubtful	possibly, somewhat	probably, quite likely	yes, definitely

4 If any answer except “no, not at all” indicate what kind(s) of abuse(s) is (are) suspected.

- a) ☐ physical b) ☐ psychosocial
- c) ☐ financial d) ☐ neglect (includes passive and active)
- e) ☐ sexual

5 If abuse is suspected, how soon do you estimate that intervention is needed?

1	2	3	4	5
immediately	within 24 hours	24-72 hours	1 week	2 or more weeks

Extracted from Myrna Reis and Daphne Nahmiash, *When Seniors Are Abused* (Toronto: Captus Press, 1995, pp. 15-26).
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This is one in a series of tools for detecting, intervening in and/or preventing abuse of seniors. For more information about this, any of the other NICE tools or related training events, please visit **www.nicenet.ca**

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