

## Overview of Abuse & the Older Adult

### Education for Health Care Professionals

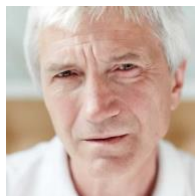
#### Part 2: Common Types of Abuse



Copyright © CSAH 2017

1

## Common Types of Abuse



- The main types of abuse of the older adult are categorized as:
  - financial abuse
  - emotional abuse
  - physical abuse
  - sexual abuse



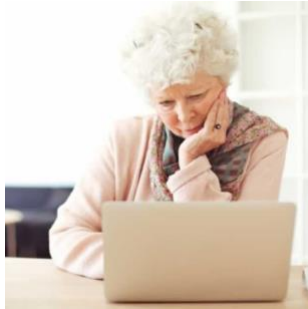
(National Senior Strategy, 2015)



Copyright © CSAH 2017

2

## Financial Abuse



- The most common type of abuse among older adults is financial abuse.
  - This type of abuse refers to improper conduct, with or without the informed consent of the older adult, which results in a monetary or personal gain for the abuser and/or loss for the older adult.
- 
- Financial abuse occurs when the abuser forces an older adult to sell property or steals their pension cheques or belongings through the use of fraud, forgery and extortion, or through wrongful use of Power of Attorney.

[\(Victims of Violence, 2017\)](#)

Copyright © CSAH 2017

## Signs of Financial Abuse

- Significant withdrawals from the older adult's bank accounts
- Sudden change in the older adult's financial situation
- Missing items or cash
- Suspicious changes in financial activity, wills and power of attorney
- Additional names to the older adult's signature card
- Unpaid bills or lack of medical care
- Unnecessary subscriptions and services

[\(Victims of Violence, 2017\)](#)

Copyright © CSAH 2017

## Emotional Abuse



- Emotional abuse of the older adult may include humiliation, isolation, intimidation, inappropriate control of activities, and threats.
- Emotional abuse is also considered a form of psychological abuse.

[\(Victims of Violence, 2017\)](#)

Copyright © CSAH 2017

## Signs of Emotional Abuse

- Signs of can emotional abuse can also be described as psychological abuse and can include:
  - depression, anxiety, fear, passivity, sadness
  - social withdrawal
  - avoiding eye contact
  - changes in appetite
  - sleeping excessively or lack of sleep
  - not being allowed to visit or talk to the older adult
  - isolation from the community and other services
  - withdrawn from family and friends by the abuser

[\(Victims of Violence, 2017\)](#)

Copyright © CSAH 2017

## Physical Abuse



- Physical abuse is any inflicted physical pain, injury or punishment of an individual that is caused by the abuser.
- This may include handling the older adult in a rough manner, such as hitting; using physical restraints and/or coercion; force feeding; and withholding the older adult from physical necessities.

[\(Elder Abuse Ontario, 2017a\)](#)

Copyright © CSAH 2017

## Signs of Physical Abuse

- The signs of physical abuse that are important to look out for are:
  - unexplained injuries, such as bruises, welts, or scars
  - broken bones, sprains or dislocations
  - broken frames or eyeglasses
  - signs of restraints, such as marks on the wrists
  - the caregiver's refusal to allow others to see the older adult alone

[\(Victims of Violence, 2017\)](#)

Copyright © CSAH 2017

## Sexual Abuse



Sexual abuse of older adults is a form of physical abuse, which also involves engaging older adults in sexual actions, such as showing pornographic material, forcing them to undress, forcing them to watch or do sexual activities.

The signs of sexual abuse may include:

- bruises to the genitalia or breasts
- unexplained genital/sexual infections
- unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
- torn, stained or bloody underclothing

[\(Victims of Violence, 2017\)](#)