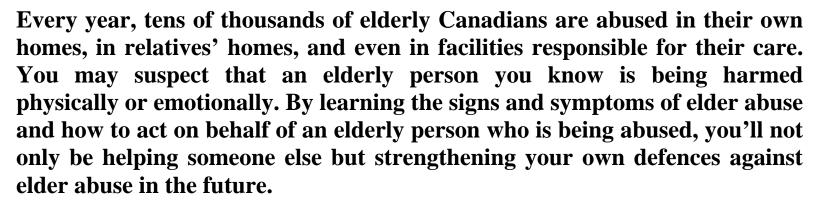
Working Together To Prevent Elder Abuse and Neglect







Signs and symptoms of Elder Abuse





- Unexplained injuries: bruises/welts/scars (especially if symmetrical on two sides of the body)/broken bones/sprains/ dislocations
- Report of drug overdose or failure to take medication regularly
- Signs of restraint: rope marks on wrists
- Caregiver's refusal to allow you to see the elder alone



Emotional abuse

- Caregiver behaviour: threatening/belittling/controlling
- Elder behaviour that mimics dementia: rocking/ sucking/ mumbling to oneself



Sexual abuse

- Bruises around breasts or genitals
- Unexplained: venereal disease/genital infections/vaginal or anal bleeding
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing



Neglect by caregivers or selfneglect

- Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration
- Unsanitary conditions: dirt/bugs/soiled bedding and clothes/ poor hygiene/ untreated bed sores
- Unsuitable clothing or covering for the weather
- Unsafe conditions: no heat or running water/faulty electrical wiring/ fire hazards/desertion in public place



Financial

- Elder's Financial Condition: significant withdrawals from accounts/ items or cash missing from household
- Suspicious changes to: wills/power of attorney/ titles/ policies
- Unpaid bills
- exploitation . Suspicious financial activity: ATM withdrawal when the account holder is bedridden/ names added on signature cards
 - Unnecessary services, goods, or subscriptions



Healthcare fraud and abuse

- Duplicate billings for the same medical service or device
- Evidence of being overmedicated or under medicated
- Evidence of inadequate care when bills are paid in full
- Problems with the care facility:
 - Poorly trained, poorly paid, or insufficient staff
 - Inadequate responses to questions about care

Preventing elder abuse and neglect is everybody's business