

## Algoma Health Unit – PARENT CHILD SERVICES PROGRAM MANUAL

<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	Program Director	<b>REFERENCE #:</b>	19-04-000
<b>DATE:</b>	O: April 15, 2005 R:	<b>SECTION:</b>	Woman Abuse
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### **KNOWLEDGE:**

Parent Child Services Staff include:

- Speech and Language Pathologists,
- Public Health Nurses,
- Nurse Practitioner,
- Family Support Workers,
- Parent Child Advisors, and
- Dietitian

### **Definition**

“Woman Abuse is the intentional and systematic use of tactics to establish and maintain power and control over the thoughts, beliefs, and conduct of a woman through the inducement of fear and /or dependency. The tactics include, but are not limited to, emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse, as well as, intimidation, isolation, threats, using the children and using social status and privilege. Woman abuse includes the sum of all past acts of violence and the promise of future violence that achieves enhanced power and control for the perpetrator over the partner. Abusive behaviour does not result from individual, personal, or moral deficits, diseases, diminished intellect, addiction, mental illness, poverty or the other person’s behaviour of external events.”

(London Battered Women’s Advisory Centre)

### **Types of Screening**

- 1) Routine Universal Comprehensive Screening (RUCS Protocol)**
  - a) Routine screening** means that screening is done on a regular basis when Parent Child Services Staff completes assessments/histories, whether or not indicators or abuse are present.
  - b) Universal screening** means that every women over the age of 12 years is routinely asked about her current or past experience of physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse.
  - c) Comprehensive screening** means that women are routinely asked about physical, sexual and/or psychological abuse as children, adolescents or adults.

**d) Indicator Based Screening**

**Indicator based screening** means that a Parent Child Services Staff notices one or more indicators/health effects that may indicate abuse and, referring to the indicator(s), asks the woman whether abuse has caused that injury or condition

**For more information**

Task Force on the Health Effects of Women Abuse Final Report – September 2000  
[www.healthunit.com](http://www.healthunit.com) (Bookshelf in 128 Queen Nursing area)

A Handbook for Health & Social Service Providers & Educators on Children Exposed to Women Abuse / Family Violence. Health Canada – 1999 [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca) (Bookshelf in 128 Queen Nursing area)

Women Abuse Binder (Bookshelf in 128 Queen Nursing area)

Education Wife Assault [www.womanabuseprevention.com](http://www.womanabuseprevention.com)

Shelternet [www.shelternet.ca](http://www.shelternet.ca)