

OASIS Alert

Clip & Save: Learn Elder Abuse Basics

You may be the patient's last hope.

Home health agency clinicians working with the elderly play a critical role in stopping elder abuse and neglect.

The patient may not raise the issue, perhaps out of fear of the caregiver's wrath. But every OASIS assessment gives you a chance to detect signs of abuse and reach out to provide encouragement and support. And your outcomes may improve in the process.

The definitions: Elder abuse is any form of mistreatment that results in harm or loss to an older person, instructs the **National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse** based in Washington, DC. It includes the following seven categories, NCEA says:

- 1. Physical abuse:** physical force that results in bodily injury, pain or impairment. It includes assault, battery and inappropriate restraint.
- 2. Sexual abuse:** non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an older person.
- 3. Domestic violence:** an escalating pattern of violence by an intimate partner where violence is used to exercise power and control.
- 4. Psychological abuse:** the willful infliction of mental or emotional anguish by threat, humiliation or other verbal or nonverbal conduct.
- 5. Financial abuse:** the illegal or improper use of an older person's funds, property or resources.
- 6. Neglect:** the failure of a caregiver to fulfill his or her caregiving re-sponsibilities.
- 7. Self-neglect:** failure to provide for one's own essential needs.

Note: For more information, go to <http://www.preventelderabuse.com>.