

Elder Maltreatment Definitions

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Objective

Explore the development of a comprehensive definition or concept of elder maltreatment in order to assist with the development of a quality measurement and screening tool

Exploring Existing Definitions

- There is no standardized definition of elder abuse/maltreatment (interagency or global)
- The Definitions Workgroup collected definitions of elder maltreatment and will run thematic analyses on these definitions to build a strong concept of global maltreatment

National Center on Elder Abuse (AoA)

- Domestic elder abuse
- Institutional elder abuse
- Self-neglect or self-abuse

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse or Abusive Sexual Contact
- Psychological or Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Financial Abuse or Exploitation

National Institute of Justice (DOJ)

- Intentional actions that cause harm or create a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable elder by a caregiver or other person who stands in a trust relationship to the elder
- Failure by a caregiver to satisfy the elder's basic needs or to protect the elder from harm
- Includes financial exploitation of the elderly as well as physical abuse or neglect

World Health Organization

- A single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person
- Physical, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse
- Intentional or unintentional neglect

Discussion Questions

Do we really need a standard definition of elder maltreatment?

- If so, what are the uses or implications of a standardized elder maltreatment definitions (e.g., data collection, screening, law enforcement referrals)?
- Are there any downsides or risks of a standardized elder maltreatment definition?

Discussion Questions

Assuming a standardized or shared definition of elder maltreatment would be useful or is desirable, what are the critical elements or considerations that should be reflected? (e.g., abuse, neglect, self-neglect, financial exploitation, etc.)

Discussion Questions

Is it feasible to have a definition that functions equally well across different provider settings (e.g., home, physician offices, SNF)?

What are the unique circumstances in each individual setting?

Discussion Questions

Assuming a standardized *American* definition of elder maltreatment can be reached, is it feasible or desirable to create a *global* definition for elder maltreatment?