

Abuse and Neglect of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities

A New Web Course for Health and Other Professionals

Self-Paced Instruction

Ongoing Registration

Continuing Education Credits

Children and adults with developmental disabilities are at greater risk than others for all types of abuse and neglect, including sexual assault and financial exploitation. In addition, abuse and neglect often RESULT in disability, permanently damaging the person's health, and leaving him or her more vulnerable to further maltreatment. Consequences of abuse and neglect for persons with developmental disabilities can be extremely serious and even life-threatening, especially in combination with the person's other medical conditions and vulnerabilities.



Early identification and intervention are crucial to insure the health and safety of persons with developmental disabilities. Unfortunately, it is more difficult to recognize maltreatment of these persons, due to a number of factors, including society's general denial of this problem, the individual's communication challenges, and isolation of the person with disabilities. Symptoms of some disabilities can mimic signs of maltreatment, making it hard to tell the difference. Persons with developmental disabilities also may be afraid to report maltreatment for fear of retaliation, loss of care, or being institutionalized.



This Web course was designed for healthcare professionals, who are in key positions to detect maltreatment as they serve people with developmental disabilities across the continuum from inpatient to community based care. The content of the Web course is also highly relevant for professionals who serve children and adults with developmental disabilities in other settings, such as education, protective services, the courts, and law enforcement. The comprehensive course content addresses the complexity of issues that surface when abuse or neglect of children or adults with developmental disabilities is suspected. Prevention strategies are also addressed.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Nationally tested curriculum
- Thirteen self-paced modules
- Interactive graphic design, and video interviews with children and adults with developmental disabilities, their caregivers, and disabilities specialists
- Bibliography, resources, links to relevant websites, and self-study questions provided at the end of each module.
- Several formats available for accessibility.
- Completion time is approximately 25 hours.
- Separate classroom discussion guide available for instructors.

COMPREHENSIVE COURSE CONTENT

- ▣ **Module 1:** Scope and Significance of the Problem
- ▣ **Module 2:** Overview of Developmental Disabilities
- ▣ **Module 3:** Disabilities and Communication
- ▣ **Module 4:** Risk Factors
- ▣ **Module 5:** Dynamics of Abuse
- ▣ **Module 6:** Family and Cultural Issues
- ▣ **Module 7:** Special Considerations in the Use of Medications
- ▣ **Module 8:** Recognizing Physical and Emotional Abuse and Neglect
- ▣ **Module 9:** Recognizing Sexual Abuse
- ▣ **Module 10:** Assessment and Documentation
- ▣ **Module 11:** Reporting Abuse and Neglect
- ▣ **Module 12:** Follow-up and Treatment
- ▣ **Module 13:** Prevention and Resources

Supported by Project # 90DN0077, Abuse and Neglect of Children and Adults with Disabilities: A National Training Curriculum, from the United States Administration on Developmental Disabilities. Developed and coordinated by the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. Artwork by Martha Perske, used with permission.

Self-Paced Web Course
Ongoing Registration
Individual and Group Rates
Continuing Education Credits Available

For more information visit the course website:
www.vcu.edu/partnership/maltreatment/ or
call Peggy O'Neill at (804) 827-0194 or the
Partnership at (804) 828-3878.

This course was developed by the Partnership for People with Disabilities, recognized by the U.S. Administration on Developmental Disabilities as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), in collaboration with seven other UCEDDs and five Protection and Advocacy Agencies across the country.

To learn more about the Partnership, visit our website: <http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/>



The Partnership for People with Disabilities is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University. VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation, or disability. If alternative formats of this document are needed, please contact the Partnership for People with Disabilities at 804/828-3876 (voice) or 800/828-1120 (TDD Relay).