

HEALTH CARE PROTOCOL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Objectives:

- Systematic early detection of violence against women from the healthcare services, mainly from primary care.
- Offering these women as well as their children integral early intervention.
- Achieving coordinated action of all of the public bodies involved by unifying the criteria and guidelines for action.

Target population: Women who are victims of gendered violence.

Scope: The development of the protocol is carried out mainly in Primary Care and establishes the coordination mechanism with the hospital emergency services and specialised care and information services.

Description: Protocol prepared by a multidisciplinary working group comprised of representatives from the Directorate General of Public Health and by professionals from the Cantabrian Health System, in consensus with the Directorate General for Women and with a representative from associations of victimized women.

The computer software design of the protocol has been carried out within the OMI-AP programme.

The pilot experience was preceded by an intensive course in awareness-raising and training the professionals of each team. Each course for each one of the teams totalled 21 hours (3 days) during working hours.

The training program includes aspects concerning the causes and socio-cultural factors of gendered violence, the factors having a bearing on the prolonging of a situation of violence against women and the consequences thereof on the health of women and children, as well as the role Primary Care teams play in early detection and in dealing with the situation of gendered violence from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Evaluation: For the purpose of analysing the development of the programme prior to its widespread implementation at all other centres, a pilot study was made in three PC teams over a 6-month period, an evaluation having been made upon completion of the study. A total of 100 professionals took part in the pilot training program.

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