

## REAGERA-P

(Responding to Elder Abuse in GERiAtric care – Provider questionnaire)

### A. Background characteristics

1. **Are you**

- Female
- Male
- Other

2. **How old are you?**

- Up to 34 years old
- 35-49 years old
- 50 years old or older

3. **What is your current profession?**

- Assistant nurse
- Nurse
- Physician
- Other

4. **How long have you worked in your current profession?**

- Less than one year
- 1-5 years
- 5-10 years
- More than 10 years

5. **How long have you worked at your current workplace?**

- Less than one year
- 1-5 years
- 5-10 years
- More than 10 years

6. **Do you work in outpatient or inpatient care?**

- Only in outpatient care
- Mainly in outpatient care
- Equally as much in outpatient and inpatient care
- Mainly in inpatient care
- Only in inpatient care

7. **In your education, did you receive training on violence in close relationships (regardless of age) or elder abuse? (Multiple answers possible)**

- Yes, elder abuse
- Yes, violence in close relationships
- No
- Do not remember

8. **Did you at any other time receive training on violence in close relationships (regardless of age) or elder abuse?** (Multiple answers possible)
  - Yes, elder abuse
  - Yes, violence in close relationships
  - No
  - Do not remember
  
9. **Are you familiar with the Regional guidelines for managing cases of violence in close relationships, including elder abuse?**
  - Yes, I have used them in my work
  - Yes, I have read parts of it or the entire guideline, but never used it
  - Yes, I know it exists but have not read it nor used it in my work
  - No
  
10. **Are there written local guidelines for managing cases of violence in close relationships or elder abuse where you work?**
  - Yes, elder abuse
  - Yes, violence in close relationship
  - No
  - I don't know
  
11. **To what extent do you feel that it is OK at your workplace to question the managers how you work, or to point out shortcomings in the activities?**
  - to a large extent
  - To a somewhat large extent
  - To some extent
  - To a small extent
  
12. **To what extent do you feel that the employees at your workplace seek help from each other if there is something they do not know how to do, or that they have the courage to say if they feel uncertain about something or have made a mistake?**
  - to a large extent
  - To a somewhat large extent
  - To some extent
  - To a small extent

Elder abuse is defined by the WHO in the following way:

“Elder Abuse is 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.”

Elder abuse include:

- physical, emotional and sexual violence or abuse
- financially exploitation
- neglect

By older, we mean individuals over 65 years of age.

By “asking questions about abuse”, we mean that you directly ask if the patient has been treated badly or subjected to some kind of abuse. Accordingly, we do not mean general questions about circumstances at home or how they are doing.

This applies to the entire questionnaire.

## B. Case vignette

*You will now be asked to read a patient case. In your work, what would you think about asking this patient questions about abuse in different phases of your contact?*

Gunnel, aged 77, is admitted to the hospital due to a deterioration of her COPD. Her breathing rapidly improves, but Gunnel instead complains a lot about abdominal pain. She has sought care for this several times both at the health care centre and the emergency ward, but the pain does not improve. She previously underwent a thorough investigation, including gastroscopy, without any explanation for the symptoms being found.

[Alternative text for those working at a primary health care centre: Gunnel, aged 77, has recently registered with the health care centre and you meet her for the first time for an annual exam of her COPD. It seems to be well-managed, but Gunnel instead complains a lot about abdominal pain.]

### **13. How likely is it, based solely on this information, that you ask Gunnel questions about abuse?**

- Not at all likely
- Not particularly likely
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

In the conversation, it comes forth that Gunnel in recent years has sought care on multiple occasions with different symptoms, but no good explanation has been found for her symptoms. Among other things, she was treated for chest pain that was not deemed to be cardiac related, and she has had very troublesome back pain for an unclear reason.

### **14. Based on the information you now have access to, how likely is it that you ask Gunnel questions about abuse?**

- Not at all likely
- Not particularly likely
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

Before the next time you see Gunnel, you see in the medical records that she has been depressed periodically. Last year, she received in-patient care over 24 hours because she had taken too many of her antidepressive pills. In the medical record, it says that the overdose was probably happened by mistake, but that the circumstances were a little unclear. After that care episode, Gunnel received Apodos so that it would not happen again.

### **15. Based on the information you now have access to, how likely is it that you ask Gunnel questions about abuse?**

- Not at all likely
- Not particularly likely
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

Gunnel says that she is single and lives in a villa. She has handled it well so far, but she says that she would need home-help services now to be able to manage everything. Gunnel has a son who lives in the same city and he has financial problems and therefore lives with Gunnel now and then. When you see

Gunnel, you ask if she likes having her son living with her sometimes. Gunnel answers vaguely and evasively. A few days later, a needs assessment is done and the son then says that he thinks it is unnecessary to spend money on the home-help services, and Gunnel agrees. Afterwards, you meet Gunnel alone again.

**16. Based on the information you now have access to, how likely is it that you ask Gunnel questions about abuse?**

- Not at all likely
- Not particularly likely
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

You now also examine Gunnel again and note something that you had not seen before. She has older bruises on both upper arms. When you ask what happened, Gunnel tries to joke the question away and says that she does not know, but that she might have “happened to bump into something”.

**17. Based on the information you now have access to, how likely is it that you ask Gunnel questions about abuse?**

- Not at all likely
- Not particularly likely
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

### C. Cause for concern

**How concerned are you about the following things when it comes to asking older patients questions about abuse?**

**18. That I will not be able to offer the patient a good follow-up**

- Not at all concerned
- A little concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Very concerned

**19. That the patient reacts negatively if I ask questions**

- Not at all concerned
- A little concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Very concerned

**20. That the patient-care provider relationship will be negatively impacted if I ask questions**

- Not at all concerned
- A little concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Very concerned

## D. Self-efficacy

## 21. At present, how would you manage to do the following things in your work?

	Would manage it very poorly	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Would manage it very well
a. Asking questions about abuse to an older patient who has clear indications of now being, or having previously been, subjected to abuse		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Asking questions about abuse to an older patient who has no clear indications of now being or having previously been, subjected to abuse.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Ensuring you are able to ask questions about abuse in private to an older patient who has a relative who insists on being present during all contact		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. In conversation, providing support to an older patient who tells about abuse		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Helping an older patient subjected to abuse on to the right body in healthcare, or to the right support function in society		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
f. Helping an older patient subjected to abuse to make a report to the police or social services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
g. Helping and supporting an older patient subjected to abuse, who does not currently want to change his or her situation		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
h. Handling the meeting with an older patient who says no to questions about abuse, but where you still have strong suspicions that the patient is subjected to abuse.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## E. Own previous experiences

**22. To what extent do you feel that you can assess the likelihood that an older patient was subjected to abuse without having to ask specific questions?**

- To a large extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To some extent
- To a small extent

**23. Approximately how many times in the past six months has an older patient spontaneously told you about experiencing abuse, without you asking questions about it?**

- None
- 1 time
- 2 times
- 3 times
- 4 times
- 5 times
- 6 times
- 7 times
- 8 times
- 9 times
- 10 times or more

**24. Approximately how many times have you asked older patients questions about abuse in the past six months?**

- None
- 1 time
- 2 times
- 3 times
- 4 times
- 5 times
- 6 times
- 7 times
- 8 times
- 9 times
- 10 times or more

**25. Approximately how many times did the questions lead to an older patient telling about abuse that he or she experienced?**

- None
- None
- 1 time
- 2 times
- 3 times
- 4 times
- 5 times
- 6 times
- 7 times
- 8 times
- 9 times
- 10 times or more

**26. Have you at any time had lingering suspicions that the patient is or has been subjected to abuse even though he or she has denied it when you asked questions about it?**

- No
- Yes, once
- Yes, several times

**27. Feel free to tell a little about one such situation:**

**28. Think about the last time an older patient told you about abuse. *To what extent do you think that the patient received a good follow-up?***

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent
- The patient was deemed not to need follow-up
- The patient was offered follow-up, but turned it down
- Cannot assess how the follow-up turned out

**29. Feel free to tell more about the handling here:**

**30. In the past six months, have you had suspicions that an older patient was subjected to abuse, but did not ask questions about it?**

- I have not had any such suspicions
- I have had suspicions, but did not ask any questions
- I have always asked questions if I had suspicions
- Do not remember



**31. What was it that led to you not asking questions?** (Multiple answers possible)

- The suspicions were not strong enough
- I was uncertain about how to ask questions
- I was uncertain about how to handle the answer
- I have too little professional experience to ask questions
- I thought it was somebody else's responsibility to ask questions
- I raised the issue with colleagues and somebody else asked questions
- I raised the issue with colleagues, but it did not lead to anyone asking questions
- Another reason, namely:

## F. Sense of responsibility

**32. How much responsibility do you think that the health care services, have for identifying older patients who currently are, or have previously been, subjected to abuse?**

- None
- Little
- Rather little
- Quite a lot
- A lot
- Very much

**33. How much responsibility do you think that you, in your professional role have for identifying older patients who currently are, or have previously been, subjected to abuse?**

- None
- Little
- Fairly little
- Quite a lot
- A lot
- Very much

**34. How much responsibility do you think the following professional categories have at your workplace for asking older patients questions about abuse?**

	None	Little	Fairly little	Quite a lot	A lot	Very much
Nurse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant nurse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Counsellor and psychologist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physician	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other professions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### G. Attitude towards routinely asking questions

**To what extent do you feel that you at your workplace should strive to routinely ask questions about abuse to the following patient groups?**

**35. All older patients with certain diagnoses or symptoms (e.g. depression or indistinct pain)**

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent

**36. All older patients who seek care with symptoms for which no medical explanation is found**

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent

**37. All older patients**

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent

### H. Perceived barriers

**To what extent do you think that, at your workplace, the following factors prevent you from asking older patients questions about abuse?**

**38. Lack of time**

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent

**39. My own insufficient awareness of the problem**

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent

**40. Inadequate routines at the workplace for asking questions**

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent

**41. Inadequate routines at the workplace for handling the answer**

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a somewhat large extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent

**42. If you would like help to handle the situation when an older patient tells you about abuse, do you know who at your workplace you could turn to?**

- Yes
- No

**43. How do you think the preparedness at your workplace is for taking care of older patients subjected to abuse?**

- Very good
- Fairly good
- Somewhat inadequate
- Very inadequate
- Don't know what preparedness there is

**44. How do you think the preparedness in society is for taking care of older patients subjected to abuse?**

- Very good
- Fairly good
- Somewhat inadequate
- Very inadequate
- Don't know what preparedness there is

**45. Do you know what you should do to document what patients tell you about abuse in a correct and secure way in the medical record?**

- Absolutely
- To a large extent
- To some extent
- Not really

**46. Do you think you have enough legal knowledge, for example about when and to whom one can/must report if an older patient is mistreated and what secrecy rules apply?**

- Absolutely
- To a large extent
- To some extent
- Not really

**I. Own exposure to violence**

Below are some concluding questions of a more personal nature. They are about your own possible experiences of having been subjected to abuse in life. We are asking the questions to be able to investigate if there is an association between what one has personally experienced in life and how one relates to older patients who have been subjected to abuse. As for other questions in the questionnaire, your responses are personal, but all analyses are done on a group level and that is also how the results will be presented.

It is common to have been subjected to some kind of abuse during life. If this is your case and you have a need for support and help to process this, please turn to one of the support services that are described in the folder you received in connection with the training day. [Alternative text control group: ...in the folder you received in connection with the invitation to participate in the study.]

If you do not want to answer these questions, you may opt to pass by them one by one.

**47. Have you yourself, as a child or as an adult, been subjected to any kind of physical abuse?**

Such as being beaten, kicked, forcibly held or subjected to other physical violence that you perceived as frightening

- No
- Yes, as a child (<18 years)
- Yes, as an adult (≥18 years)

**47b. Who subjected you to abuse as an adult (≥18 years)?**

- A partner or former partner
- A family member or relative
- Another person I knew
- A completely unknown person

**47c. Who subjected you to abuse as a child (<18 years)?**

- A partner or former partner
- A family member or relative
- Another person I knew
- A completely unknown person

**48. Have you yourself, as a child or as an adult, been subjected to any kind of sexual abuse?**

Such as somebody touching your body against your will or forcing you to perform sexual acts

- No
- Yes, as a child (<18 years)
- Yes, as an adult (≥18 years)

**48b. Who subjected you to abuse as an adult ( $\geq 18$  years)?**

- A partner or former partner
- A family member or relative
- Another person I knew
- A completely unknown person

**48c. Who subjected you to abuse as a child ( $< 18$  years)?**

- A partner or former partner
- A family member or relative
- Another person I knew
- A completely unknown person

**49. Have you yourself, as a child or as an adult, been subjected to any kind of emotional abuse?**

For example, that somebody repeatedly degraded you, humiliated you or tried to limit your contact with others or decide what you may and may not do

- No
- Yes, as a child ( $< 18$  years)
- Yes, as an adult ( $\geq 18$  years)

**49b. Who subjected you to abuse as an adult ( $\geq 18$  years)?**

- A partner or former partner
- A family member or relative
- Another person I knew
- A completely unknown person

**49c. Who subjected you to abuse as a child ( $< 18$  years)?**

- A partner or former partner
- A family member or relative
- Another person I knew
- A completely unknown person

**50. Have you yourself, as a child or at an adult age, been subjected to any kind of financial or material abuse?** For example, that somebody exploited you financially or took control of your finances

- No
- Yes, as a child ( $< 18$  years)
- Yes, as an adult ( $\geq 18$  years)

**50b. Who subjected you to abuse as an adult ( $\geq 18$  years)?**

- A partner or former partner
- A family member or relative
- Another person I knew
- A completely unknown person

**50c. Who subjected you to abuse as a child (<18 years)?**

- A partner or former partner
- A family member or relative
- Another person I knew
- A completely unknown person

**NOTE:**

*This questionnaire is a further development of the Responding to Elder Abuse in GERiAtric care – provider questionnaire, previously published under a creative common attribution 4.0 license.*

*Reference: Simmons, J., Wenemark, M. & Ludvigsson, M. Development and validation of REAGERA-P, a new questionnaire to evaluate health care provider preparedness to identify and manage elder abuse. BMC Health Serv Res 21, 473 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-021-06469-2>.*

*Some items (19, 23-30, 31-38 and 44-47) were not included in the original study but was added for a pilot test of an educational model about elder abuse. A preprint of that study is available under a creative common attribution 4.0 licence.*

*Reference: Simmons J, Motamedi A, Ludvigsson M, Swahnberg K. Testing an educational intervention to improve health care providers' preparedness to care for victims of elder abuse. A mixed method pilot study. Research Square [Preprint]. 2022. [Accessed 2022 April 2] <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1510390/v1>*

*Compared to the previously used versions of REAGERA-P, the following minor changes were made in the current version:*

- *Items no 6, 9, 10 concerning background characteristics were added.*
- *The word “approximately” was added to questions 23-25 and the wording of question 32-33 were slightly modified to increase readability.*
- *For items 4-5, 23-25, 28 and 32-41 the response categories have been modified so that more response categories were added, in most cases turning a four-point ordinal scale into a six-point scale.*