

## QUESTIONS TO ELICIT ELDER ABUSE

**Purpose:** To use specific questions to determine if abuse is occurring.

**Instructions:** Request family members step outside the room and use the opportunity to interview the patient alone. Begin the conversation with the question, “How are things at home?” and then follow with the more specific questions below.

### **Physical Abuse:**

1. Are you afraid of anyone at home?
2. Have you been struck, slapped or kicked?
3. Have you been tied down or locked in a room?
4. Has anyone touched you without your permission?

### **Emotional Abuse:**

5. Do you ever feel alone?
6. Have you been threatened with punishment, deprivation, or institutionalization?
7. Have you received the “silent treatment”?
8. Have you been force fed?
9. What happens when you and your caregiver disagree?

### **Neglect:**

10. Do you lack aids such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, or false teeth?
11. Have you been left alone for long periods?
12. If you need assistance, how do you obtain it?
13. How do you get help?

### **Financial Abuse:**

14. Does your caregiver depend on you for shelter or financial support?
15. Has money been stolen from you?

Carney, M. T., Kahan, F. S., & Paris, B. E. C. (2003). Elder abuse: Is every bruise a sign of abuse? *The Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*, 70(2), 69-74.

Reprinted by permission: The Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Box 1094, One East 100th Street, New York, NY.