In response to the COVID pandemic, lockdown restrictions have limited opportunities for victims of Domestic Abuse to seek help. The latest Government messaging made clear that the ‘stay at home’ rule does not apply to victims of domestic abuse.

Services who usually refer victims (eg schools, social workers, GP’s) are not delivering face to face support or spotting early warning signs of abuse.

**Vaccination and Test sites, however, are seeing thousands of patients every day.**

Vaccination and Testing centres are places where a person experiencing domestic abuse may ask for help. During appointments, the patient is generally alone with the vaccinator or Test Support staff providing an **opportunity** to ask for help.

How you respond could be a lifeline to that patient.

It is important that all staff and volunteers within centres use **‘professional curiosity’** and ask if things are ok if:

* Someone seems distracted, quiet, reluctant to engage
* Provides confusing responses (as if the person is trying to alert you to something)

If you get a disclosure of abuse or you feel a patient is trying to disclose, a simple way of responding is to ask **“is someone making you feel unsafe?”**

This pack will provide you with resources to help you to feel confident to respond to a disclosure of Domestic Abuse and information to share with patients to enable them to seek support from a specialist agency.

In an attempt to try and help as many victims as possible at the moment, that are potentially stuck in lockdown with a perpetrator, the government have come up with a new ’**code word’** scheme called **‘Ask for ANI’**

Pharmacies, including Boots have signed up to support this scheme nationwide. It means that a victim can approach a member of staff in the participating venue and ask for **‘ANI’** to indicate they **need help** in a **discreet** way.

Please be aware of this in case a patient asks for ‘ANI’ during their appointment.

**Included:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Instruction** | **Link / embedded document** |
| Seven-minute briefing on Domestic Abuse (DA) | Please read |  |
| Marketing posters | Please print and display in your centre |  |
| Flowchart on how to respond to a disclosure | Please refer to |  |
| QR code | Please prompt the patient to take a photo of this to provide a discreet link to support services |  |
| Links to short training videos on DA Awareness and handling disclosure | Please watch | **Domestic Abuse awareness (23 min)**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaJTogQ_YxU>  **Managing a disclosure (4 min)**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBENHoxzREM>  **Safe enquiry and support (23 min)**  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UroriuIxzI](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D-UroriuIxzI&data=04%7C01%7CRachel.Westlake%40kent.gov.uk%7C709e8a8bab39463a032f08d8e48d3e08%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637510642700163905%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tiOre0zeoFidKXyKZNXeK5bzRWe%2BG9MzIy3R49neTgY%3D&reserved=0)  **Domestic abuse - it's more than physical abuse (6 min)**  <https://www.facebook.com/kentpolice/videos/domestic-abuse-its-more-than-physical-abuse/784224112356634/> |
| Ask for ANI code word scheme | For more information on this scheme | <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939618/Understanding_domestic_abuse_for_the_Ask_for_ANI_codeword_scheme.pdf> |