



Dear Pediatric Health Care Provider:

I recently visited your office with my child. I greatly value my child's visits with you and appreciate your compassion and concern. Yet, I noticed that I was not asked about intimate partner violence. No one asked me directly, "How does your partner treat you? Has your partner ever hit you, or hurt you, or threatened you?" "Have your children ever witnessed a physical fight between you and your partner?" I also noticed that posters and safety cards showing patients how to get help if someone is hurting them were not displayed.

Because your office is a safe, supportive, and confidential place to get help I am asking you to learn more about how to address intimate partner violence (IPV). Intimate partner violence and child abuse are very closely related and often co-occur. Witnessing IPV can cause highly damaging mental health effects in children and delay in achieving developmental milestones. The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that, "The abuse of women is a pediatric issue....identifying and intervening on behalf of battered women may be one of the most effective means of preventing child abuse" (AAP RE9748).

Learning how to address intimate partner violence (IPV) is as simple as visiting www.leapsf.org and following the steps outlined on this website. This website will direct you to the most current expert information on addressing IPV. You don't need to create forms and materials on your own. Instead you can easily download the forms, patient education and safety materials, and reference materials you need to start helping your patients with IPV.

I know you are very busy but I hope you will visit www.leapsf.org as soon as possible. Your patients' health and safety would benefit greatly if you learned more about intimate partner violence.

Thank you!

Your patient's parent

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