

## **Week 5 Reflection**

### **What resources are available in your community to assist with concerns such as those faced by your virtual patient?**

This case was disturbing and multifaceted. The WHO defines child maltreatment as any form of neglect, physical, emotional, sexual abuse, exploitation of a child under the age of 18 (Kim et al., 2022).

The boyfriend admitted to hitting the child in the abdomen which leads to other questions. One question including is he abusive to Grady's siblings and his mother? 30-60% of families who have experienced child abuse or domestic violence are also encountering another type of violence (Prevent Child Abuse, 2021). We cannot assume that if one type of abuse is happening so is another, but it is something to consider and is enough of a reason to provide the mother with resources to help her out of any situation causing harm. The Office of Women's Health via the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has guidelines online for individuals and how to leave abusive relationships. Individuals can be provided with information on restraining orders as well as information on how domestic violence affects children. It may be challenging for Grady's mom to leave the relationship but if she is educated on how, it is affecting her children maybe it will give her the courage to leave.

A second question to consider is how dependent is the mother on the boyfriend due to her financial situation? In central New Jersey, where I am from a website called Child Care Resources has programs in place for the position children like Grady Harris are in. The program can assist families by linking them to subsidy programs (CCRNJ, 2023). New Jersey Child Care Assistance Program is another option for Grady's mother (CCAP). She would have to go on the website and provide financial information to see if she qualifies. The State of New Jersey Department of Health, 2023 website also provides direct links for these resources.

### **What are the reporting requirements for your state and to whom would you report?**

The State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families, NJDCF, mentions that anyone with reasonable cause to believe a child is neglected or abused should report it immediately. 1-877 NJABUSE (1-877-652-2873) is the number of the State Central Registry and can be used to report abuse/neglect. Within 24 hours after the reporting the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CPP) must investigate. An individual who fails to report abuse or neglect is considered a disorderly person according to law (NJDCF, 2023).

As a provider hesitating can lead to poor outcomes and we always want to do what is best for our patients and if that means making an uncomfortable phone call to keep a child safe, it is necessary.

## **References**

Child Care Resources. (2023). Financial Assistance. Retrieved June 7, 2023, from <https://ccrnj.org/families/financial-assistance-2>