

## KIVALLIQ INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PILOT PROGRAM FACT SHEET

- Intimate partner violence commonly results in traumatic injury to the head, face and/or neck
- Individuals who have experienced head trauma or a period of strangulation resulting from intimate partner violence and present with one or more signs or symptoms of traumatic brain injury should undergo urgent medical assessment when it is safe to do so
- To help recognize intimate partner violence traumatic brain injury (IPV TBI) healthcare professionals may follow these four steps (CHAR):

**C** Ask: Did your partner **C**hoke or strangle you?

**H** Ask: Did your partner hit you in the **H**ead or cause you to hit your **H**ead?

**A** Ask: Are you experiencing any **A**cute or worsening signs or symptoms?

**R** If a traumatic brain injury is suspected, **R**efer for medical assessment when safe

### Signs and symptoms of traumatic brain injury

Headache or head pressure	Seizure or convulsions
Nausea or vomiting	Facial bruising or injuries
Sensitivity to light or sound	Confusion or disorientation
Dizziness or vertigo	Difficulty talking or swallowing
Blurred, double or loss of vision	Voice changes or hoarseness
Slurred speech	Balance problems
Difficulty remembering or concentrating	Difficulty sleeping
Feeling more sad or anxious	Feeling more tired than normal
Weakness or numbness/tingling in the face, arms or legs	Having flashbacks or nightmares of previous trauma

Following medical assessment, patients with suspected or confirmed IPV TBI should be considered for referral to the *Kivalliq Intimate Partner Violence Traumatic Brain Injury Pilot Program* if they meet the following inclusion criteria:

1. Youth or adults who sustain IPV-related head trauma including head injury, concussion, structural brain injury (e.g intracranial hemorrhage, skull fracture) or suspected hypoxic-ischemic brain injury secondary to strangulation, that is directly caused by intimate partner violence;
2. Patients who live within one of the participating communities within the Kivalliq region of Nunavut.

For more information on the pilot program or how to refer a patient please visit the Pan Am Clinic website at [www.panamclinic.org/departments/concussion-program/](http://www.panamclinic.org/departments/concussion-program/) or call the Kivalliq IPV TBI Program Rapid Access to Clinical Expertise (RACE Line) at 204-927-2766 during office hours (9:00am-4:00pm CST), Monday to Friday.