

NUNAVUT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Background:

- Gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence commonly results in traumatic injury to the head, face and/or neck
- Individuals who have experienced head trauma or non-fatal strangulation resulting from gender-based violence and present with one or more signs or symptoms of head trauma/traumatic brain injury/non-fatal strangulation should undergo urgent medical assessment when it is safe to do so

CHAR Recognition Tool:

- To help recognize individuals with these injuries, 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 or non-fatal strangulation injury is suspected, **R**efer for medical assessment when safe

Signs and symptoms of head trauma/traumatic brain injury/non-fatal strangulation

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| 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 |
| Neck pain | Feeling more emotional |

Following initial medical assessment, patients with suspected or confirmed GBV head trauma, traumatic brain injury and/or non-fatal strangulation injuries may be considered for referral to the *Nunavut Gender-based Violence Traumatic Brain Injury Program* if they meet the following inclusion criteria:

1. Youth or adults who sustain head trauma including head injury, concussion, structural brain injury (e.g. intracranial hemorrhage) or injuries secondary to non-fatal strangulation, that is directly caused by gender-based violence (including intimate partner violence and injuries that occur in the setting of other forms of GBV including human trafficking);
2. Patients who live in ANY community within the territory of Nunavut

For more information or how to refer a patient please visit the Pan Am Clinic website at www.panamclinic.org/departments/concussion-program/ or call the Pan Am Concussion Program at 204-927-2766.