

Guideline 13: Longstanding family conflict

Summary

Remain alert to problematic patient-family relationship dynamics



- Be aware of verbal and non-verbal signs of conflict.

Respectfully address any conflict suspected



- Discuss the conflict either with the patient alone, or with the patient and family.
- Negotiate an approach to family involvement which minimizes disruption and enables continued management of the patient's illness.
- If appropriate, refer the patient (and family carer) to a psychologist, counselor, or social worker for ongoing management of relationship difficulties.

Follow appropriate reporting guidelines if abuse is suspected



- Attempt to ascertain information about the nature and extent of abuse.
- Document any evidence of abuse.
- Follow appropriate State/Territory guidelines for managing and reporting abuse.