VICTIM EMPOWERMENT WHEEL

Routine Screening

- Routinely screen all female patients over the age of 18 (screen males and younger females at discretion).
- Use a screening tool.
- Include screening questions on a general health-intake form and follow-up on the questions verbally during the examination.

Professional Translators

- Use an objective and professionally trained translator.
- Do not use the abuser as a translator.
- Do not use, spouse, child, family member or another patient to translate for the victim.
- Patients with limited English proficiency have the right to receive free interpreter services in healthcare facilities.

Effective Relationship

- Treat each patient as an individual, irrespective of culture.
- Walidate the victim's experience.
- Ensure confidentiality and clarify the limitations thereof.
- Attempt to understand how the victim feels in her situation.
- Encourage the victim to take an active role in decision-making.
- Be solution oriented, supporting the victim's need to move towards safety.
- Encourage the victim to seek help from appropriate resources.

EMPOWERING THE VICTIM

Educate the Victim

- The victim does not jeopardize immigration status by seeking medical treatment.
- Orders of Protection are available.
- It is the policy of the New York Police
 Department not to ask about the
 immigration status of a crime victim,
 witness or others who seek assistance
 from the police.
- Recommend that the victim speak to an immigration lawyer.
- Irrespective of immigration status, victims are eligible to receive benefits (e.g. 911, Domestic Violence Hotline, emergency housing, low cost health insurance).

Privacy During Screening

- Do not ask domestic violence screening questions in a public area.
- The screening tool should be completed in privacy.
- Ensure that the patient is not verbally screened in the presence of her partner, family member or friend.
- Use a sign stating "Patients only beyond this point."
- Screen the patient during a time of privacy, such as when being weighed or following a urine test.