

Habilitering & Hälsa asks patients about violence

Health and medical care providers in the Västra Götaland region ask their patients about violence in close relationships. The reason for this is because experiencing violence can affect health, both in the short and long term. By routinely asking patients these questions, the health services are better able to identify patients who have experienced violence and subsequently refer them to protection, support or treatment if necessary

At Habilitering & Hälsa, we ask our patients about violence in close relationships. Patients always get asked these questions in private. We use a standardized questionnaire that patients either fill in themselves or with the help of staff. Once the patient has completed the questionnaire, the answers are followed up with staff. The questions are usually asked during one of the patient's first visits to Habilitering & Hälsa and in connection with children's follow-up ages. Any accompanying guardians of patients are also given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire, but the results of their questionnaire are not followed up during the visit. If necessary, the guardian will be contacted about the results of their questionnaire at a later date.

Answering the questionnaires is voluntary.

All healthcare professionals who meet with adults and children in the course of their work have a duty to report. This means that if we become aware of or suspect that a child under the age of 18 is being harmed in any way, we are obliged to contact the social services. The social services will then investigate and assess the child's living situation and their need for support. This is to ensure that the child and their parents/guardians can receive the proper protection, support and assistance they may require.