

**Specification of Competency Standards**  
**for the Elderly Care Service Industry**  
**Unit of Competency**

Functional Area - Psychosocial & Spiritual Care

Title	Assess Suspected Abuse Cases
Code	106120L4
Range	This Unit of Competency is applicable to employees in the elderly care service industry working on cases. The usage of competency involves some non-routine work, thorough thinking and judgment. Practitioners would be able to assess suspected cases of abuse to prevent the elderly abuse according to relevant guidelines from the institution and their professional judgment.
Level	4
Credit	6 (For Reference Only)
Competency	<p>Performance Requirements</p> <p>1. Relevant knowledge on elderly abuse</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the institution's guidelines on preventing elderly abuse</li> <li>• Understand professional attitude and code of conduct when assessing suspected cases of abuse, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Act impartially</li> <li>○ Respect elderlies' autonomy; discuss with their families or guardians if the elderlies are intellectually or mentally impaired</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Understand techniques to assess suspected cases of abuse</li> <li>• Understand relevant information on elderly abuse, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Definition of elderly abuse</li> <li>○ Mode of elderly abuse, such as physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, financial abuse and abandonment</li> <li>○ Risk factors of elderly abuse</li> <li>○ Signs of elderly abuse</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Understand techniques to build a trustful relationship with elderlies and their families</li> </ul> <p>2. Assess suspected cases of abuse</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use different ways to assess elderlies according to guideline of the institution regarding preventing elderly abuse, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use relevant assessment tools, such as elderly depression scale, and suicidal risk assessment</li> <li>○ Review counselling records to assess family backgrounds of elderlies</li> <li>○ Review medical records to assess recent health conditions of elderlies and look for signs of abuse</li> <li>○ Interview with elderlies regularly to assess their psychological, behavioural and personality changes</li> <li>○ Contact families or carers of elderlies if needed to assess the current status of their family, their interactions with elderlies and stress from carers, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Analyse elderlies' backgrounds to identify any major risk factors of abuse, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Carers' situation, such as lack of support, overwhelming stress level, poor relationship with elderlies, alcohol or drug abuse, gambling addiction, or psychiatric illness</li> <li>○ Family status, such as overcrowded living environment, habitual use of violence to solve problems</li> <li>○ Financial status, such as poverty, unstable family income, or negative equity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elderlies' personality, such as, being overly dependent on others, unsociable, having narrow social circles, limited contact with the outside world</li> <li>● Approach healthcare professionals or other people having constant contact with elderlies if needed, such as doctors, nurses or neighbours, to understand elderlies' lives</li> <li>● Investigate the physical and psychological conditions of elderlies to identify any previous abuse and the modes of abuse, such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Physical abuse, such as multiple injuries with unidentifiable causes</li> <li>○ Psychological abuse causing abnormal sleep patterns, fear or guilt</li> <li>○ Sexual abuse that leads to elderlies' fear of taking a shower or bath, genital infections with unidentifiable causes</li> <li>○ Neglect, such as elderlies constantly left starving, malnutrition, elderlies wearing tattered clothes, or presences of bed sores</li> <li>○ Financial abuse such as taking possession of or transferring elderlies' money or property without elderlies' knowledge or consent, deduction of their living expenses, or loss of property with unknown causes</li> <li>○ Abandonment such as leaving elderlies alone on the street for prolonged period of time, or leaving elderlies in hospital without any arrangement of discharge</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Build trustful relationships and effective communication channels with elderlies, their families or carers, so as to help assess their needs</li> <li>● Document the assessment results in their personal record</li> <li>● If the incidence is suspected to be a case of abuse, promptly notify related department according to relevant guidelines of institution, as well as to notify police promptly if criminal acts are involved</li> </ul> <p>3. Exhibit professionalism</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Follow guidelines of the institution regarding the prevention of elderly abuse when performing assessment</li> </ul>
Assessment Criteria	<p>The integrated outcome requirements of this Unit of Competency are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to perform assessment on suspected cases of elderly abuse according to guidelines of the institution regarding prevention of elderly abuse; and</li> <li>● Ability to analyse the backgrounds, physical and psychological health of elderlies; to identify cases of abuse and follow up properly to reduce the chance of recurrence.</li> </ul>
Remark	