

Primary Care Pathways to Safety: Recognising and Responding to Family Violence in LGBTIQ+ Populations

12 June 2025



Melbourne

HealthPathways

Melbourne

Medical

Assault or Abuse

Family Violence

Disclosure of Family Violence

Family Violence Referral and Community Support

Crisis services

Secondary consultation service

After hours services

Victim-survivor support services

Intervention and support for people who use violence

Prevention and dispute resolution services

Legal and financial services

People Who Use Family Violence

Physical Assault and Injury Recording

Allocate Injury Type

Strangulation (Choking)

Sexual Assault or Abuse

Adult Recent Sexual Assault

Previously Undisclosed Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault Counselling and Support

Family Violence

Melbourne

HEALTHPATHWAYS

Latest News

3 March

Health.vic

Health alerts and advisories

4 March

Japanese encephalitis (JE) in Victoria

A second confirmed case of Japanese JE has been identified in a resident of northern Victoria. Clinicians should test for JE virus in patients with compatible illness and notify the Department of Health immediately of suspected cases. [Read more...](#)

27 February

Local outbreak of measles in Victoria

An outbreak of measles has been identified in Victoria, after two new cases were reported who likely acquired their infection in Melbourne. These cases have had no history of overseas travel or known contact with other cases of measles. [Read more...](#)

24 February

Perinatal neck size restrictions are now in effect

Pathway Updates

Updated – 11 March

Febrile Seizures in Children

Updated – 10 March

Immunisation - Adults

Updated – 10 March

Myocarditis and Pericarditis After COVID-19 Vaccines

Updated – 10 March

Mpox

Updated – 4 March

Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus

VIEW MORE UPDATES...

ABOUT HEALTHPATHWAYS

BETTER HEALTH

RACGP

USEFUL

MBS ONLINE

NPS MEDICINEWISE

PBS

NHSD

SEND FEEDBACK

Click 'Send Feedback' to add comments and questions about this pathway.

Family Violence in LGBTIQ+ Populations

[Home](#) / ... / [Family Violence](#) / [Disclosure of Family Violence](#)

Disclosure of Family Violence

This pathway is about family violence affecting people of all genders inclusive of the LGBTIQ+ community, parents, and siblings. See also:

- [Child or Family Information Sharing Scheme](#)
- [People Who Use Family Violence](#)
- [Sexual Assault or Abuse](#)

Red flags

- Victim-survivor is concerned for their immediate safety and afraid to go home
- Suspected child abuse or neglect

Background

[About family violence](#)

Assessment

Practice point

Take care discussing family violence

Do not discuss, or ask about, family violence in the presence of a possible person who uses violence, other family members, or children who can understand the conversation. Do not use family members or friends as an interpreter if one is required, and consider if a specific gender is appropriate for the patient.

- Be aware the family violence and abuse is not just physical. It includes:
 - Coercion and controlling behaviours e.g.:
 - Close monitoring and control
 - Intimidation and harassment
 - Emotional abuse including:
 - gaslighting (questioning the victim's feelings, recollections, and instincts)
 - erosion of a person's self-esteem through criticism or sabotage
 - Systematic isolation from social supports
 - Explicit or implied threats of violence towards the person or dependents
 - Neglect

Disclosure of Family Violence

Management

- If victim-survivor or children are in immediate danger, call 000 for police support and 1800-015-188 for [safe steps](#) family violence and support service.
- If suspected child abuse or neglect, report to [Victorian Child Protection Service](#).
- Create a trustworthy and safe environment for the victim-survivor, and practice [trauma-informed care](#). Use the [LIVES framework](#) in supporting victim-survivor disclosing experience of family violence.
- Discuss safety and a [safety plan](#) each consultation, according to risk:
 - High risk of immediate violence
 - Less risk of immediate violence
 - If technology abuse is occurring, online safety planning can help victim-survivors to stay connected through technology while reducing the risks associated with technology abuse.
 - If the person who uses violence does not have access to the person's smartphone, account details or messages, these apps may be of assistance:
 - 1800RESPECT – [Daisy App](#)
 - [Ask Izzy](#) – Free on Telstra mobile network

Consider reporting image abuse to the eSafety Commissioner.
- Consider the needs of diverse communities or groups that experience domestic violence:
 - Parents and siblings
 - Elder abuse
 - LGBTIQ+ people


LGBTIQ+ people

- Abuse can be unique:
 - Threats to "out" a person's sexuality, HIV status etc.
 - Pressure to conform to gender and to sex, withholding medications (hormones, antiretrovirals), isolation
- Challenges to accessing care:
 - Abuse is trivialised e.g., woman can't abuse women, men can defend themselves
 - Fear of discrimination from police and healthcare providers
 - Shame and stigma about both LGBTIQ+ status and abuse
- Offer specialised services:
 - [Say It Out Loud](#) – relationships and domestic violence for LGBTI communities
 - [Thorne Harbour](#) – LGBTIQ+ relationship and family violence counselling
 - [Rainbow Door](#) (intake point for LGBTIQ+ Family Violence services)
 - Relationships Australia Victoria 1300-364-277
 - LGBTI Gay and Lesbian Liaison Police Officers (03) 9247-6944
 - [Queerspace](#)
 - [Transgender Victoria](#)
 - [Undercurrent Victoria](#) – resources around referrals to support anti-violence and respectful relationships


- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

HealthPathways Case Study- Family Violence

Access the case study- [Family violence in general practice settings](#)



Putting knowledge into practice



CASE STUDY 4:

Assistance with family violence in general practice settings

Carly, a new patient, came into her appointment and asked the GP, who was running late, for a repeat contraceptive pill prescription. She seemed agitated and edgy, constantly looking at her watch. The GP sensed a problem and asked if she was feeling okay.

Carly said, "My boyfriend dropped me off and said he'd be back in 15 minutes, and I'm worried that he'd be waiting."

The GP asked her some questions about the source of her stress. She chose them from the [Disclosure of Family Violence](#) pathway. Here are some examples:

Carly said, "I am worried because when I am late, he gets angry and when he gets angry with me, he yells."

Carly explained to her GP that they moved interstate around 3 months ago. She moved away from family and friends and gave up her position as a childcare worker because her partner had to relocate for work. Her partner said she shouldn't work because it would be difficult, due to the relocation. Carly had no other medical problems. She did not take any other medications besides her combined oral contraceptive pill.

Carly said that her partner limited the amount of money he gave her for shopping and transport. He got angry when she contacted her mum and her best friend. She said, "He doesn't really want

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HealthPathways – Relevant and Related Pathways

Relevant Pathways

- [Family Violence](#)
- [Physical Assault and Injury Recording](#)
- [Sexual Assault or Abuse](#)
- [Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Disclosure of Family Violence](#)
- [Elder Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [People Who Use Family Violence](#)
- [Reporting to Child Protection](#)
- [Sexual Abuse of a Child or Young Person](#)
- [Adult Recent Sexual Assault](#)
- [Previously Undisclosed Sexual Assault](#)


[CPD Hours for HealthPathways Use](#)

Referral Pathways

- [Family Violence Referral and Community Support](#)
- [Assault or Abuse clinical pathways](#)
- [Adult Mental Health Service Referrals](#)
- [Child and Youth Mental Health Referrals](#)
- [Sexual Assault Counselling and Support](#)
- [Housing Support](#)

Related Pathways

- [Carer Support - Mental Health](#)
- [Child or Family Information Sharing Scheme](#)
- [E-Mental Health Services](#)
- [GP Mental Health Treatment Plan](#)
- [Housing Support](#)
- [Legal and Ethical](#)
- [LGBTIQA+ Mental Health](#)
- [Mental Health Community Support Services](#)



HealthPathways

Melbourne

Medical

Mental Health

Older Adults' Health

Medicines Information and Resources

Public Health

Specific Populations

Surgical

Women's Health

Our Health System

Carer Resources and Support Services

Community Health Services

CPD Hours for HealthPathways Use

MyMedicare

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Digital Health

Forms and Resources

Hospitals - Public

MBS Items

CPD

Our Health System / CPD Hours for HealthPathways Use

CPD Hours for HealthPathways Use

About Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The aim of the continuing professional development (CPD) requirements of the [Medical Board of Australia](#) is to support quality, lifelong learning for doctors that is relevant, effective, and evidence-based.

The 3 core elements of CPD are:

1. [CPD homes](#) – for quality assurance
2. [Professional development plans](#) – for purpose
3. [Different types of CPD](#) – for value

Using HealthPathways for CPD

HealthPathways is a source of contemporary and practical clinical information, localised to the geographical region of the medical practitioner. Application of knowledge contained within pathways to the individual patient provides an opportunity for reflection upon current understanding of the patient's clinical condition, and how it may be improved. This reflective learning can be self-reported as a CPD activity.

- Clinicians with an [individual HealthPathways account](#) can access a [CPD Reporting](#) tool to help log their HealthPathways CPD activity.
- Clinicians without an individual HealthPathways account can still self-report time spent in HealthPathways as a reflective activity. To help reporting, reflective learning templates have been developed for both colleges:
 - [ACRRM](#)
 - [RACGP](#)

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Page information

Topic ID: 1348642

CPD REPORTING

Add learning notes

Create a CPD report

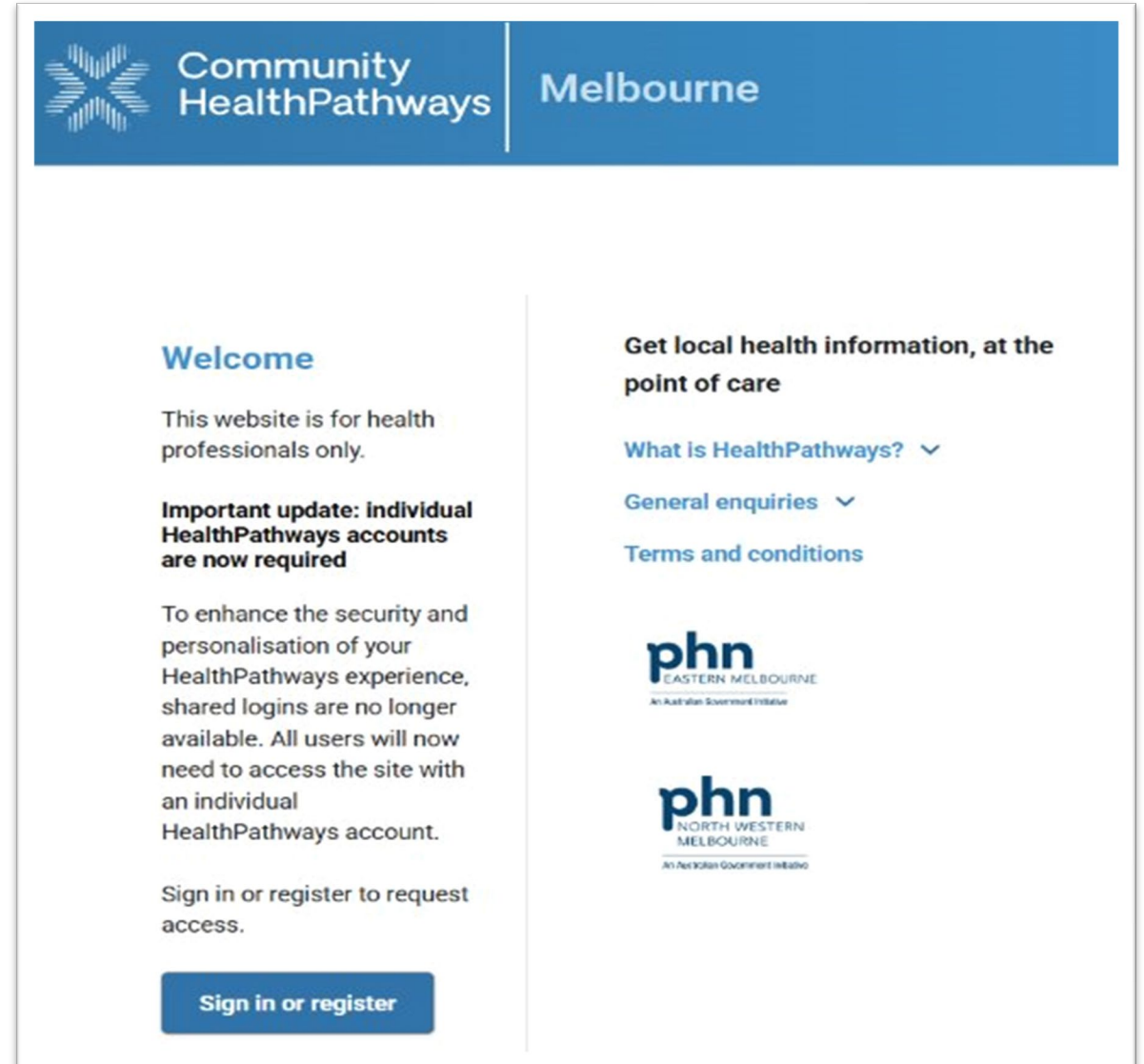
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Accessing HealthPathways

Please click on the **Sign in or register** button to create your individual account or scan the QR code below.

If you have any questions, please email the team
info@healthpathwaysmelbourne.org.au

A screenshot of the HealthPathways Melbourne website. The header is blue with a white star icon and the text "Community HealthPathways" and "Melbourne". The main content area is white. On the left, there is a "Welcome" section with a message for health professionals only, an "Important update" about individual accounts, and a "Sign in or register" button. On the right, there is a "Get local health information" section with links for "What is HealthPathways?", "General enquiries", and "Terms and conditions". At the bottom right, there are logos for "phn EASTERN MELBOURNE" and "phn NORTH WESTERN MELBOURNE", both noted as Australian Government initiatives.

THANK YOU!

A 3D white figure is positioned behind the letters of the text 'THANK YOU!'. The figure is standing on the baseline of the text, with its arms raised and hands resting on the top of the 'K' and 'Y' letters. The figure's head is tilted slightly to the right. The text 'THANK YOU!' is rendered in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect, casting a soft shadow on the white background.