

# CROSSING PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES WITH A PATIENT

Boundary violations, like the ones listed on this fact sheet, can lead to sexual abuse.

Medical and healthcare employees, at all levels, have an obligation to monitor behaviour that may lead to boundary violations and to nurture an environment of vigilance to ensure reporting.

Here are some **WARNING SIGNS** you should pay attention to in your colleagues and yourself.

- ! Giving personal contact details to a patient.
- ! Switching assignments to care for a specific patient.
- ! Improving personal appearance before meeting a specific patient.
- ! Giving gifts to a patient.
- ! Discussing personal private issues with a patient.
- ! Communicating electronically with the patient outside of work (e.g. social media).
- ! Frequently thinking about how to be alone with a specific patient.
- ! Paying special attention to a specific patient (e.g. spending time after shifts or during breaks).
- ! Feeling you are the only one that understands the care a patient needs.
- ! Keeping secrets with the patient.

Medical and healthcare employees, at all levels, have an obligation to monitor behaviour that may lead to boundary violations and to nurture an environment of vigilance to ensure reporting.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PREVENTING  
SEXUAL ABUSE OF PATIENTS CALL OUR

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