



# PSMA NEWS WAVE

## PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

September 2018 Issue VII

**Pennsylvania Society of Medical Assistants**

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### 2018 AAMA NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

- President Sue Hawes, CMA(AAMA)**
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**No bylaw amendments were adopted by the house and no resolutions were approved by the House**

## FREE CEU'S

**smilesforlife.org** has 8 free modules each worth 1 CEU that are approved by the AAMA. This offer expires on June 30, 2019. It is very easy to read and take the exam online. You must pass with an 80% or higher. Once you pass the test, it will give you a certificate of completion. It is your responsibility to print and mail in this certificate to the AAMA to apply to your transcript. Smiles for Life **WILL NOT** do this for you.

The Centers for Disease Control also has free CEU's at **cdc.gov**.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**PSMA Fall Seminar and Board Meeting** - October 20, 2018, Lancaster County Area.

Registration will be forthcoming.

**PSMA Spring Seminar and Board Meeting** - March 23, 2019 at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson, PA

**2019 PSMA State Conference** - May 16 - 19, 2019 to be held at the Holiday Inn, Johnstown, PA

More information on future events will be forthcoming.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 15 - 19, 2018** - Medical Assistants Recognition Week

September 2018

September 13 - 16, 2019 - AAMA 63rd Annual Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina

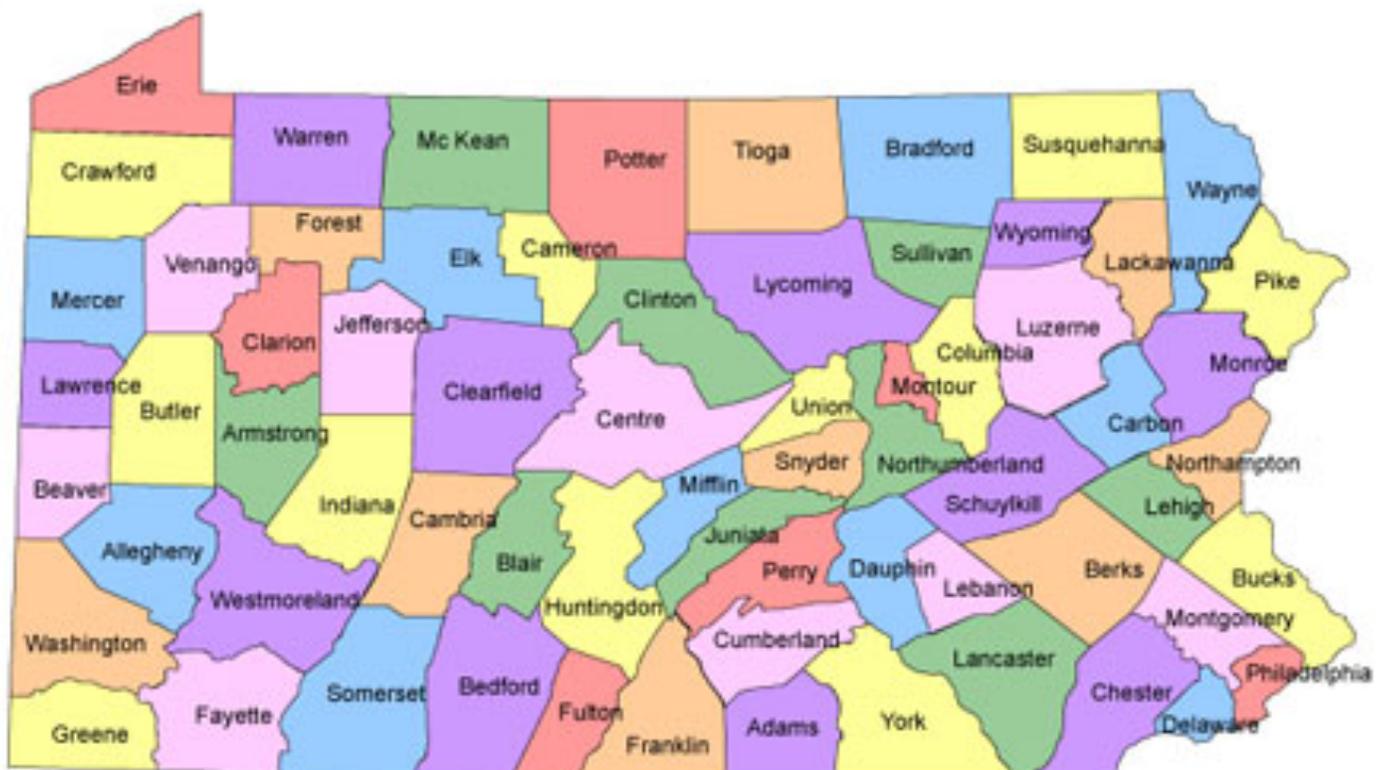
## WEBSITE INFO

American Association of Medical Assistants is [aama-ntl.org](http://aama-ntl.org)

Pennsylvania Society of Medical Assistants is [pasociety-cma.org](http://pasociety-cma.org)

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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence occurs when one person is controlling another through fear and intimidation, often including threats, physical violence, verbal/emotional abuse. Physical attacks may range from shoving to murder. It can also be verbal abuse, harassment, or destruction of property in order to control a person. Domestic violence can occur when someone exhibits excessive possessiveness, isolates another person from friends and family, or deprives him or her of physical and economic resources for control. Although men and women can be a victim of domestic abuse, women will be the focus more in this article.

Women of all races are about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. One in five women reported she had been raped, physically or sexually assaulted in the lifetime. Women are five to eight times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.

Physical abuse can be with a weapon, be shot, stabbed, burned, hit, strangled suffocated, kicked or restrained. Sexual abuse can be unwanted, forced or coerced sexual acts. It can be forced prostitution and a forced pregnancy, a refusal to use condoms, mutilation and drugs. Intimidation causes fear by using looks, actions, and gestures. It also can be smashing or throwing things, destroying property, abusing pets and showing weapons. Emotional abuse is putting a partner down, calling them names, making them feel bad about him/herself and making the partner feel crazy. Isolation can be the controlling partner limits the abused outside movements, or controls where, when and who the person can talk to or see.

Victims may minimize, deny or blame something else for the abuse. They can make light of the abuse, deny it occurred or shift the responsibility to themselves. The abuser can use the children by threatening to take them away, or use the children to really messages.

Some stereotypes is treating the person like a servant and making all the decisions in the relationship. The abuser can act like the "Master of the Castle" and being the one to define the roles in the relationship.

Economic abuse prevents the partner from getting or keeping a job. It makes the partner ask for money or just giving the partner an allowance, even taking the persons money or income. It can even be not letting the partners know about or have access to income.

Threatening behavior can be coercion and threats that may be threatening to commit suicide, manipulation, trying to make partner drop any charges or just making and carrying out threats. Non threatening behavior is talking and acting so partner feels safe and

comfortable expressing themselves. One should value a partners opinion and being emotionally affirming and understanding. Trust and support a partners goals in life and respecting a partners right to heir own feelings, friends, activities and opinions. Honesty and accountability on admitting being wrong, acknowledge past use of violence and accepting responsibility for ones self.

There are different reasons why a person stay in the relationship. One may believe that the abuser will change or reform. Or if the abused is isolated from family and friends, he/she has difficulty to check the reality of what the abuser is telling them. Difficulty finding work that pays enough to be self sufficient and childcare is a problem for some. The abuser could threaten to take the children and fear that the abuser will kill him/her, the children, family members if they leave. Another reason is shame that they don't want anyone to know whats going on or there may be more good times than bad. The abused believes he/she is the cause of the violence and can make the abuse stop if they do the right things. Doubts in their ability to make it on their own and a slow ineffective legal response which can't or won't protect them. A person can believe that leaving the relationship is wrong sometimes reinforced by clergy, family, friends and society.

Warning signs of an abusive personality can be jealousy, controlling behavior, unrealistic expectations, isolation, blames others for feelings, or cruelty to animals. use of force in sex, verbal abuse, battering history, threats of violence, breaking or striking objects.

Domestic abuse effects every member of the family including the children. It can cause constant fear fro the children. Statistics show that millions of children witness violence in their home each year. Children react to their environment in different ways and reactions vary depending on the their gender and age. Research indicates that children who witness domestic violence show more anxiety, low self esteem, depression, anger and temperament problems than those that do not witness any abuse.

Submitted by

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