



**Scotland's
health**

Improving the NHS Scotland response to gender-based violence

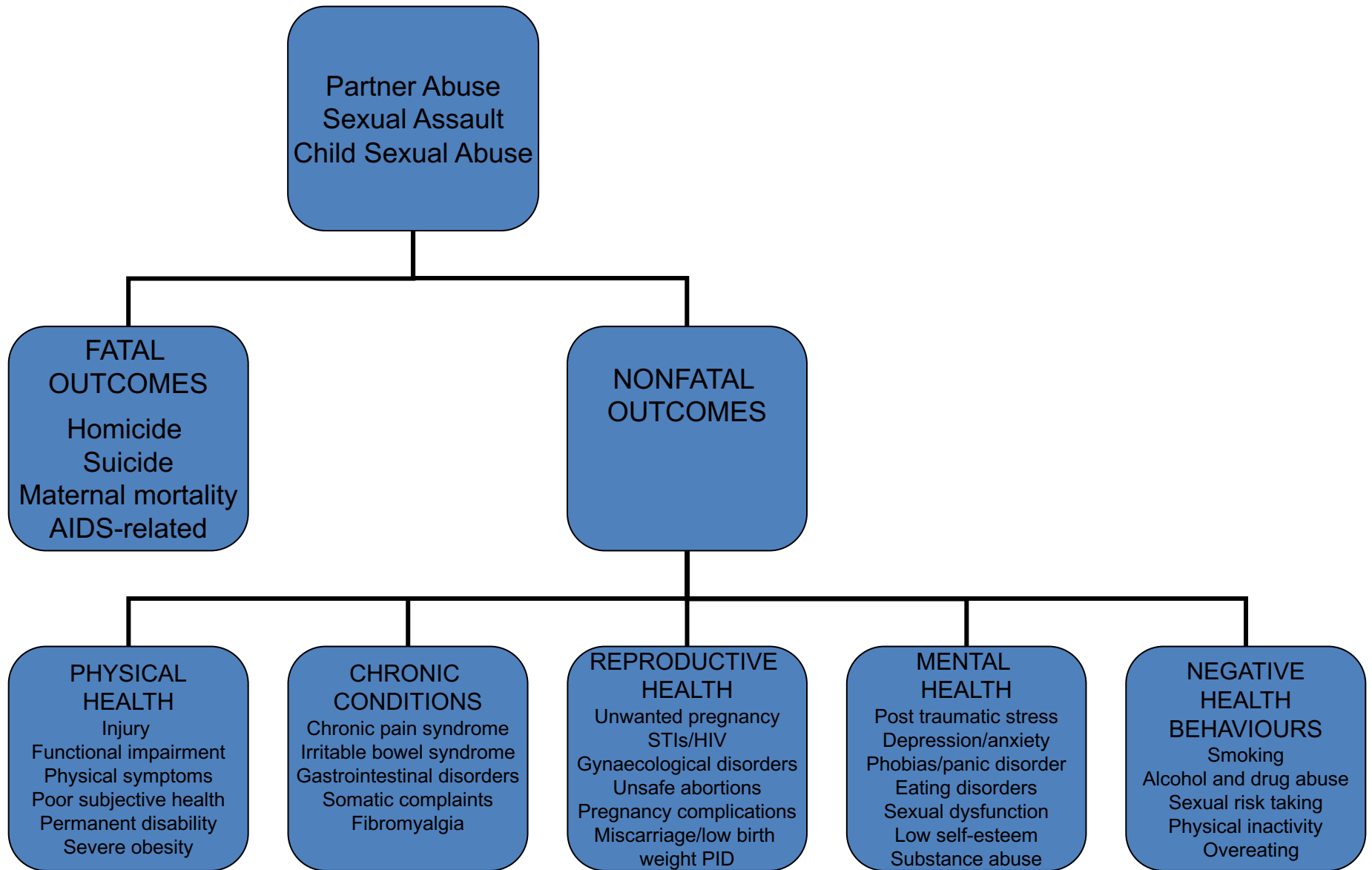
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NHS Scotland Policy on Gender-based Violence

‘to adopt a systems approach to ensure that the National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland fully recognises and meets its responsibilities around gender-based violence as a **service provider, employer and partner agency**’

HEALTH IMPACT OF GBV from Heise et al, 1999



Improving identification and response

4 Priority areas:

- Routine enquiry of domestic and sexual abuse
- Guidance and care pathways for staff
- Employee policy for staff affected by abuse
- Improved multi-agency collaboration



Routine enquiry of abuse



Health Visiting



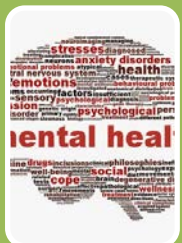
Sexual Health



Maternity services



Drug and alcohol abuse



Mental health



Emergency department



Why ask?

- Domestic abuse is common amongst women using the priority NHS services
- it's hard for women to bring up themselves
- women find it acceptable to be asked
- abuse is a key contributory factor in many presentations
- knowing about a woman's experience of abuse will help inform her assessment and care
- potential for increasing the woman's safety



Be trauma informed

- Recognise that trauma is common, especially in context of domestic abuse
- Recognise that there may be a range of impacts relevant to your service
- Respond safely and effectively
- Consider referring to other services for support
- Avoid re-traumatising the individual



Thank you

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