

# Referring to the DV Community

**Dental hygienists should refer patients who have been abused to community advocates.**

**Dental hygienist's with expertise in domestic violence report that when they directly connect the victim to an on-or-off-site, domestic violence specialist, they "feel relief" and are reassured that the patient will receive the additional services needed. |**

**If the patient is not ready to speak with a specialist in domestic violence, the dental hygienist should offer the patient telephone numbers for referrals and try to assess her immediate safety needs.**