

Extracted from Myrna Reis and Daphne Nahmiash, *When Seniors Are Abused* (Toronto: Captus Press, 1995), pp. 15-26. Reproduced with permission.

*Daphne Nahmiash* and *Myrna Reis* are available as consultants for practitioners or agencies wishing to know more about the use of these tools. Please visit [www.nicenet.ca](http://www.nicenet.ca) for more information.

# CASE

CAREGIVER ABUSE SCREEN



**NICE**

National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly  
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### WHAT IS CASE?

The Caregiver Abuse Screen (CASE) is a screening measure for abuse of seniors. The CASE is intended for use with all clients who are caregivers of seniors whether or not abuse is suspected. The “Yes” responses on each of the eight CASE items may stimulate discussion that reveals abuse/neglect that might otherwise have gone undetected.

In addition to indicating current abuse by caregivers, CASE responses of caregivers may be indicative of the tendencies and stresses that could lead to possible abuse in the future if the situation does not improve. In such cases, a proactive and preventative approach to intervention may help prevent the development of abuse.

The CASE is interpreted as follows. After a caregiver completes the entire screen, the “Yes” responses are tallied: the more “Yes” responses, the more likely the presence of abuse. Each “Yes” response should also be probed for clinical information. The worker should ask the caregiver to explain his or her answer, and try to assess the specific situation.

The mean “Yes” score for a group of abuser caregivers in Project CARE was 3.3 and the median score was 4. Two non-abuser groups in the study averaged 1.9 with a median score of 2. Drs. Reis and Nahmiash developed the Project CARE screening tools and intervention model in a local community-based health and social service agency (CLSC NDG/Montreal West) to identify suspected abuse victims and to establish preliminary protocols and intervention techniques to deal with abuse problems. The model focuses on tools and intervention techniques for older adults living in the community, who are to some degree, dependent on caregivers or helpers for their daily needs. The model was evaluated through outcomes research and explored variables involved in the abuse of seniors.

### THE CAREGIVER ABUSE SCREEN (CASE)

Please answer the following questions as a helper or caregiver:

- 1 Do you sometimes have trouble making ( ) control his/her temper or aggression? Yes  No
- 2 Do you often feel you are being forced to act out of character or do things you feel badly about? Yes  No
- 3 Do you find it difficult to manage ( )'s behaviour? Yes  No
- 4 Do you sometimes feel that you are forced to be rough with ( )? Yes  No
- 5 Do you sometimes feel that you can't do what is really necessary or what should be done for ( )? Yes  No
- 6 Do you often feel you have to reject or ignore ( )? Yes  No
- 7 Do you often feel so tired and exhausted that you cannot meet ( )'s needs? Yes  No
- 8 Do you often feel you have to yell at ( )? Yes  No