What is ACE and Why is it Important to Your Patients and their Families?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is the term given to describe all types of abuse, neglect, and other traumatic experiences that occur to individuals under the age of 18.

Why is ACE important to Your Patients and their Families?
Looking at ACEs can be a difficult and scary step to take. Research has shown that traumatic childhood experiences affect a child’s brain’s physical development and function. Adverse childhood experiences cause kids to have difficulties learning, making friends, and trusting adults.

Action Steps For Patients to take for a Safe Environment:
As adults, ACEs resurface in the form of unhealthy behaviors later in life. The ACE study found a stunning link between childhood trauma and the chronic diseases people develop as adults, as well as social and emotional issues. This includes heart disease, lung cancer, diabetes, and many autoimmune diseases, as well as depression, violence, being a victim of violence, and suicide. Ref: acestoohigh.com

What is ACE?

Abuse and Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Neglect
- Physical Neglect

Household Dysfunction
- Mother treated violently
- Household substance abuse
- Household mental Illness
- Parental separation or divorce
- Incarcerated household member

Learning an ACE score can be scary for your patients, but by identifying action they can take, they can create a safe environment for their families. Your patients and their families can take action without fear of being labeled.