

evidence based guidelines

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Red Flags

- Patient is reluctant to explain or has inconsistencies when asked about injury
- Patient is unaware of current location or phone number
- Patient has someone speaking for them
- Patient shows signs of abuse/neglect/frequent sexually transmitted infections
- Patient reports an unusually high number of sex partners
- Patient is younger than 18 and is engaging in sex for rewards/money

Management

First - Attend to medical needs and treatment

Then- Get patient alone to discuss the following questions with social work and/or a medical professional:

"Have threats from your boss made you fearful to leave your current job?"

"Have you been forced to do work you didn't want to do?"

"Has anyone lied to you about the type of work you would be doing?"

"Have you ever had sex to pay off a debt or earn money?"

"Does anyone hold your ID, driver's license or passport for you?"

If NO to these questions

Consider referring to social services as applicable

If YES to any of these questions

Call:

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

1-888-373-7888

or text "HELP", "INFO", or "BeFree" to 233733

(24/7 access, 200+ languages)

Note: This service is preferable to local law enforcement for the following reasons:

- They have more experience with assuring safety & security of the patient & medical providers
- They can guide further assessment & documentation to provide the best chance of successfully prosecuting the traffickers
- They can determine the most appropriate law enforcement agency to contact

In cases of suspected trafficking, physicians can submit online tips at

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/identify-victim>

References: The Polaris Project (<http://www.PolarisProject.org>), American Academy of Family Physicians, Center for Women in Transition, Ottawa and Allegan County Human Trafficking Task Force, Holland Police Department