

## Human Trafficking Victim Screening

**IMPORTANT: Patients may not self-identify as a victim.** Remember, victims DO NOT seek help due to a variety of factors including lack of trust, self-blame, or specific instructions by trafficker, **so look for multiple RED FLAGS.**

### Questions to Ask:

- Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?
- Is anyone forcing you to work or have sex against your will?
- Do you know what City/Town/State you are in?
- Where do you work and what type of work do you do? Have you ever been lied to about your type of job?
- Are you allowed to freely leave your house/work?
- Has anyone threatened to hurt you/your family or threatened to report you to the police?
- Does anyone hold your identification documents (i.e. passport, social security card/work permit or driver's license)? Could you get it back if you wanted to do so?
- Is anyone restricting you from seeing your family and friends or tracking your movements? When was the last time you had contact with your family?

### RED FLAGS (What To Look For):

- Unable to make eye contact especially with male physicians
- Patient has no identification documents or documentation is in possession of an accompanying party.
- Accompanying party insists on answering/interpreting for patients. Accompanying male is much older than young female in OB/GYN exam.
- Patient is reluctant to explain his/her injuries
- Patient is unaware of his/her location
- Patient exhibits fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, or nervousness and avoids eye contact.

- Patient is under 18 years of age and engaging in commercial sex or trading sex for something of value.
- Patient works and sleeps at same address.
- Patient has no money or has no control over money. Accompanying party pays with cash.
- Patient is a runaway/throwaway youth

**Physical Signs:**

- Frequent or recurrent UTI's
- Frequent treatment for STIs: Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and HIV/AIDS
- High number of sexual partners
- Multiple pregnancies/abortions
- Frequent colds, sore throats, skin conditions, including scabies
- Maltreated previous injuries
- Weight loss or malnourishment
- Burns from battery acid, hot iron, or cigarettes, exposure to toxic chemicals
- Bruises, including evidence of being slapped or receiving rough treatment
- Shows of physical restraint or torture
- Branding- tattoos or markings of ownership (ask what the meaning of his/her tattoo and what is the meaning behind it)
- Presence of internal cotton or cosmetic sponges to stop bleeding from cycle or abortion.

**What to do next:**

- Do not place yourself or the person in danger----notice who is around when talking to the person. May have other victims with them. At this point patient needs to be away from person who accompanied them.
- Be sensitive to the person's experience. Offer them something to eat and/or drink (if possible).

- Return to the Human Trafficking Assessment Guideline- Continue to Step#4