

Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

Health Care Professional

Human trafficking, also referred to as modern-day slavery, is the exploitation of a person's vulnerable background and social weaknesses (based on gender, race, class, social discrimination, poverty, low education and history of abuse) into situations of enslavement or involuntary servitude for purposes of increasing monetary profit or receiving personal services from labor or commercial sex through means of: *fraud* (false offers of employment, marriage, better life), *force* (rape, beatings, confinement), or *coercion* (threats, debt-bondage, psychological abuse).

HOW CAN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS HELP?

Call the national human trafficking resource center hotline: **1-888-3737-888** if you suspect someone may be a victim of trafficking. As a first responder, gaining trust and establishing a sense of safety for the victims is the first step in supporting victims to want to seek help, de-stigmatize the victim label, encourage survivor empowerment, and lessen the anxiety of cooperation with law enforcement in order to prosecute offenders who break the law by violating the human rights, liberty and freedom of another.

IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING:

There is no one-fits-all profile to trafficking. Anyone can be a trafficking victim or trafficker.



- ◆ Is the patient accompanied by another person who seems to be controlling?
- ◆ Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?
- ◆ Does the patient seem fearful or submissive?
- ◆ Does the patient have difficulty or seem frustrated trying to communicate because of language or cultural barriers?
- ◆ Does the patient have forms of identification or able to provide it?

COMMON HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS:

- ◆ Sexually transmitted diseases
- ◆ Pregnancy resulting from rape
- ◆ Bruises, scars, and other physical signs of abuse and torture
- ◆ Substance abuse and addiction
- ◆ Malnourishment, dental and health damages
- ◆ Psychological trauma, depression, disorientation, confusion, panic attacks

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK POTENTIAL VICTIMS:

Before questioning a patient who you suspect may be in a possible human trafficking situation, discreetly separate the patient with the person(s) accompanying him/her because it may be the trafficker or accomplice involved in the trafficking.

*Can you leave your job or situation if you want? * Are you afraid to say something? * Have you been threatened if you tried to leave? * Has anyone threatened your family? * What is your working or living condition like? * Where do you sleep and eat? * Do you have to ask permission for everything? * Is there a lock on your door so you can't go out? * Do you have ID or know where your documents are?*