

SALINAS VALLEY MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
RAPID REGULATIONS - 2019

Human Trafficking

What is Human Trafficking?

- Modern-day slavery
- Defined by the United Nations as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Populations Vulnerable for Human Trafficking

- Victims of childhood abuse or neglect
- Children involved in foster care and juvenile justice system
- Runaway and homeless youth
- Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific islanders
- Victims of violence
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals
- Migrant workers
- Undocumented immigrants
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- People with disabilities
- People with low incomes
- Those with a history of substance abuse
- Those in communities exposed to intergenerational trauma

How to Recognize Signs of Human Trafficking

- Poor mental health or abnormal behavior such as:
 - Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous or paranoid.
 - Avoid eye contact
 - Refuses to change into a gown or cooperate with a physical exam.
 - Behavior does not align with injury or complaint
 - Refuses treatment that doesn't take place during that visit
- Poor Physical Health:
 - Appears malnourished
 - Signs of repeated exposure to harmful chemicals
 - Signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture

How to Recognize Signs of Human Trafficking

- Other signs:
 - Is not in control of identification
 - Is not allowed to speak for themselves
 - Claims they are “just visiting”
 - Not able to clarify address or where he/she is staying
 - Unsure of where they are
 - Loss of sense of time
 - Inconsistent in story
 - Tattoo(s), brand(s), or other marking(s).

Health problems that may alert health care providers to human trafficking

- Burns
- Fractures
- Bruises/contusions
- Respiratory and other infections
- Tuberculosis
- Sexually transmitted Diseases
- HIV infection
- Pregnancy
- Abortion-related complications
- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Chronic vaginal and cervical infection
- Pelvis inflammatory disease

What to do if human trafficking is suspected

- Use a victim-centered response
- If the victim is minor contact CPS
- Remain non-judgmental
- Observe body language and communication style of patient and those with him/her
- Use plain language
- Try to examine patient privately
- Use an interpreter if needed
- Build a trusting rapport with patient

What to do if human trafficking is suspected

- Simple Screening Questions:
 - Where do you sleep and eat?
 - Do you live there with other people?
 - Is your family there, or nearby?
 - Are the doors and windows locked so you cannot get out?
 - Has your ID or documentation been taken from you?
 - Have you been denied food, water, sleep or medical care?
 - Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
 - Has anyone threatened your family?
 - Have you been physically harmed in any way?
 - Are you being forced to do anything you do not want to do?