

Decision Support for Confirmed or Suspected Human Trafficking IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

This resource is part of the
Healthcare Response to Human
Trafficking Series

by

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ALWAYS PRIORITIZE CARE & SAFETY



ALWAYS REPORT & CONNECT APPROPRIATELY

PATIENT HEALTH & MEDICAL CARE

Complete care for any treatable medical concerns of the patient as thoroughly as possible within the visit.

Do not tell a patient they *should* leave a trafficker. Instead, safely take recommended actions to improve harm reduction options and pathways to exiting a trafficking situation.

Prioritize transparency and patient consent.

SAFETY OF PATIENT, HCPS, OTHERS

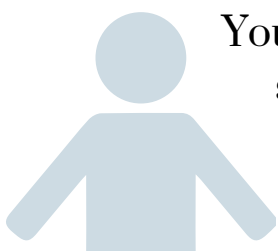
Consider if the patient might be accompanied by or under surveillance of a trafficker or someone connected with a trafficker.

Take available safe steps to speak with the patient or client outside the presence of any companion.

Do not take action that could jeopardize the imminent safety of the patient, yourself, or those around you.

Contact law enforcement if the patient requests, the law requires, or there are imminent safety concerns; you can request to speak with someone trained about human trafficking.

Your commitment to
safely respond
can save lives.



Know and follow your mandated reporting laws.
Build connections in advance with local taskforces,
law enforcement, and service providers.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW & CAN SUPPORT

IF MANDATED REPORTING LAWS APPLY:

Always follow applicable federal and state mandated reporting laws, which might lead you to connect with a local taskforce, a family/child services department, a child advocacy center, and/or law enforcement.

EVEN IF MANDATED REPORTING LAWS DO NOT APPLY:

1) BE PREPARED TO CONNECT THE PATIENT WITH NEEDED SERVICES & RESOURCES:

- Reach out to a local taskforce related to human trafficking to receive information and resources.
- You can also contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888) for crisis support and/or to learn about available local resources. A consenting patient could also talk to the hotline operator directly.

2) YOU CAN LOG AN ANONYMOUS TIP, STILL PROTECTING IDENTIFYING PATIENT INFORMATION:

- Logging a tip can allow for further investigation without involving your patient directly and also inform research, policies, and resourcing based on gathered data.
- You can contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888) to log a tip.

Abide by HIPPA. Do not share protected health information without patient consent when reaching out to non-mandated entities.

Know & follow your healthcare setting's human trafficking response protocols to support these steps.