

# Human Trafficking Protocol



**Patient accesses medical services**



**Medical services are provided**

**Consider these red flags:**

- Someone else is speaking for the patient
- Patient is not aware of his/her location the current date, or time
- Patient exhibits fear, anxiety, PTSD, submission, or tension
- Patient shows signs of physical/sexual abuse, medical neglect, or torture
- Patient is reluctant to explain his/her injury

**If any of these red flags are present, discuss with the patient:**



- Speak with the patient alone
- Bring in a social worker or advocate whenever possible
- Use a professional, neutral interpreter if needed
- Use a trauma-informed care approach

1. Do you feel that people are controlling you and forcing you to do things you don't want to?
2. Are you scared of or frightened by people in your everyday life or work setting?
  - a. Would you know how to seek help if you needed it?
  - b. Are you afraid to get help?

**If YES to any of the ABOVE questions or if other indicators of human trafficking are present:**

- A CarePATH Best Practice Alert will appear
- Call local agencies or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) for help and next steps
- The NHTRC Hotline is confidential, and operated 24/7
- Please follow all HIPAA and mandatory reporting policies

**If NO to above questions:**

Refer to local social services as appropriate

**Assessment of potential danger:**

Local resources and NHTRC can assist in assessing the current level of danger. Be attentive to the immediate environment for safety concerns and follow hospital protocols if there are safety threats

**Questions to consider:**

- Is the trafficker present?
- What does the patient believe will happen if they do not return?
- Does the patient believe anyone else (including family) is in danger?
- Is the patient a minor? If so, follow reporting policies

**No perceived danger:**

Local social service agencies and the NHTRC can help determine next steps and referrals

**Local resources:**

Refer to existing community resources as outlined in local policies and protocol as needed

**If there is perceived danger and the patient wants help:**

- Discuss next steps with local or Hotline representatives
- If necessary, involve law enforcement for victim safety

