

YOU MAY BE SEEING HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN YOUR CLINIC OR HOSPITAL

According to the United Nations, more than one million people fall victim to human trafficking around the world each year. A victim's only contact with the outside world may be when brought to a medical facility by a trafficker.

Some common enslavement situations include: servile marriage, forced prostitution, and forced labor in homes, factories, or the agriculture industry.

THE MN HUMAN TRAFFICKING WATCH CAN HELP YOU IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN YOUR HEALTH CARE PRACTICE

1. Red flags that a patient may be trafficked: (similar to signs of domestic violence)

- She/he accompanied by someone who seems controlling, insists on speaking for the patient, or refuses to leave the exam room
- She/he displays signs of:
 - Physical and/or psychological abuse
 - Untreated medical conditions and/or multiple injuries at different stages of healing including bruises or scars
 - Malnourishment and/or serious dental problems (especially in youth)
 - Infectious diseases including tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections

2. Interviewing a patient who may be a victim of human trafficking:

Always interview the patient in private using a professional interpreter. If necessary, make an excuse to speak with the patient alone

- Assure your concern for the patient's health, well-being and confidentiality
- Screening questions may include:
 - *Do you feel safe at home or work?*
 - *Are you being hurt, hit or threatened by anyone?*
 - *Can you leave your job or living situation if you want?*
 - *For youth: Do you attend school regularly?*

3. Providing the patient with resources:

THE MINNESOTA HUMAN TRAFFICKING WATCH OFFERS FREE TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS INCLUDING STRATEGIES FOR SCREENING POTENTIAL VICTIMS & ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE NEEDS. PLEASE CALL CIVIL SOCIETY AT 651-291-0713 TO SCHEDULE A FREE TRAINING AT YOUR FACILITY.

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- Provide the patient with information on the 24-hour **MN Human Trafficking Hotline** and the opportunity to call the hotline immediately.

*****1-888-7-SAFE-24*****

- If the patient does not want to call the hotline or police herself, offer to make the call on his/her behalf.

→**If the patient gives consent for you to call**, call the hotline as soon as possible, ideally with the patient in the room.

→**If the patient does not give consent for you to call the hotline**, we do not recommend that you call or disclose any information to the hotline or police. The primary exception to this recommendation is if the case involves mandated reporting for child abuse.

PLEASE NOTE: MN has mandated reporting laws for child abuse and vulnerable adults. However, MN does **not** mandate reporting of domestic violence (except in the case of life-threatening injury or use of firearms). The Vulnerable Adult Act was designed to protect adults residing in health care facilities and those suffering from a dysfunction who are unable to care for themselves. Since the Vulnerable Adult Act generally is not used in cases of domestic violence, it likely is not appropriate for outpatients who are suspected trafficking victims.

4. Documentation:

Take photographs and record injuries, symptoms, conversations and referrals in the patient's chart.