Medical Assessment Tool | Polaris Project



Patient is reluctant to explain or has inconsistencies when asked about his/her injury

Patient is not aware of his/her location (i.e. what city or state he/she is in)

Patient has someone speaking for him/her

Patient shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, medical neglect, untreated STIs and/or torture

Patient exhibits fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, nervousness and/or avoids eye contact

Patient is under 18 and is engaging in commercial sex or trading sex for something of value

Patient has an unusually high number of sexual partners for his/her age

For a more comprehensive list, consult Polaris Project's Potential Red Flags and Indicators Document

First Response

Attend to medical needs and treatment – if patient is admitted follow same protocol.

Once medical concerns are assessed / treated

If possible get patient alone to discuss questions with a social worker or medical professional.

Have you ever been forced to do work you didn't want to do?

Have you ever been forced to have sex to pay off a debt?

Does anyone hold your identity documents (i.e. driver's license/passport) for you? Why?

Have physical abuse or threats from your employer made you fearful to leave your job?

Has anyone lied to you about the type of work you would be doing?

Were you ever threatened with deportation or jail if you tried to leave your situation?

For a more comprehensive list, consult Polaris Project's Generic Trafficking Assessment

YES to any of the above questions:

Call National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) Hotline 1-888-3737-888

(24/7 and access to 170 languages)

Ask for assistance with assessment questions and next steps. Indicate which questions you used from above.

Assessment of Potential Danger

Ask the Hotline to assist in assessing level of danger. Be vigilant of immediate environment – who is watching, calling, etc.

Questions to Consider:

Is the trafficker present? (i.e. in the waiting room/outside)

What will happen if the patient does not return to the trafficker?

Does the patient believe he/she or a family member is in danger?

Is the patient a minor?

Perceived Danger

The Hotline can assist in determining next steps. You may need to involve law enforcement for victim safety. The Hotline can assist in determining appropriate, sensitive law enforcement contacts.

NO to above questions:

Refer to social services as applicable.

Not Perceived as Trafficking Situation

Refer to social services as applicable.

No Perceived Danger

The Hotline can help determine appropriate next steps /referrals.

Resources

The Hotline may not have your local resources in their database so use what you know as well.

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