Human Trafficking “Red Flags” for Health Care Professionals

Human Trafficking situations can be dangerous to your office. If you suspect human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-3737-888, or call 9-1-1.

Human trafficking victims often exhibit one or more of the following:

➢ A potential victim often is escorted by someone who does not want them out of their sight. This person is usually controlling and may speak for the victim.

➢ Victims often have no control over their identification documents, their money, or even the conversation.

➢ Victims commonly have inconsistencies in their story, and are unclear or non-specific as to how they were injured or contracted a disease.

➢ Victims may have injuries or signs of physical/sexual abuse, malnutrition, or health risks associated with sex trafficking.

➢ Victims may exhibit fear, anxiety, depression, nervousness, hostility, flashbacks, or suicidal tendencies, and commonly avoid eye contact.

➢ Victims often present with evidence of prolonged lack of healthcare: old or untreated injuries, drug/alcohol addiction, or advanced symptoms of disease.

➢ Victims may have multiple STDs, or want certification that they are “clean”.

➢ Victims may have brands, scars, or tattoos indicating someone else’s ownership.

➢ Victims or their escorts will likely pay in cash.

➢ Victims may not admit that they are victims, and may not ask for help.