



Human Trafficking Indicators for Healthcare Providers

Situational:

- Accompanied by a handler who may be speaking for the patient or monitoring what is communicated
- Not in possession or control of their ID, documents, or money
- May not know what city/state they are in
- Reports of physical or sexual assault
- Neglect/delay in care, advanced stage of disease/injury; undetected diseases such as diabetes, hypertension; evidence of prior poor attempt to treat

Behavioral:

- Evasive (reluctant to speak or sounds scripted), defiant, hostile, angry
- Confused, disoriented
- Fearful, submissive, hyper-vigilant, anxious, depressed
- Flat affect, monotone speech, seemingly unfazed by serious injury
- No eye contact

Physical:

- Evidence of physical and/or sexual abuse (multiple injuries, prolonged and new) – bruising, scarring, burns, ligature marks, broken bones, signs of physical restraint, unexplained injuries
- Injury doesn't match history/explanation given
- Serious industrial injury – without proper documentation or evidence of protective gear
- Chronic back, hearing, vision, skin, cardiovascular, respiratory problems from work conditions or toxic exposures
- Persistent or untreated STIs, UTIs
- Impacted debris in vagina (from cotton balls, makeup sponges, multiple tampons to hide menstruation during sexual encounters)
- Neck and jaw problems (potentially from oral sex)
- Multiple pregnancies, repeated abortions/miscarriages, no prenatal care, complications from attempt at induced abortion
- Urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, vaginal +/- or rectal trauma
- Poor dentition
- Weight loss, malnourishment
- Dizziness, headaches, memory loss from traumatic brain injury or concussion
- Substance use related issues
- Tattoos, branding, burns