



## Developing a Protocol for Reporting Victims of Human Trafficking

Download and use in conjunction with 'How To Identify a Victim of Human Trafficking' PDF available at [www.hopeforjustice.org/professionals](http://www.hopeforjustice.org/professionals) under 'USA Professionals PDFs'.

As you and/or your medical staff become aware of human trafficking in your vicinity, it is critical that you develop a specialized protocol to follow when a possible victim of trafficking is encountered in your facility.

### Essential steps to developing a good protocol

1. Contact the Polaris Project hotline number at 888-3737-888 to find the organizations nearest you that work with trafficking victims.
2. Contact the Department of Homeland Security hotline number at 866-347-2423 for their input on local law enforcement officials.
3. Assign a member of your staff to interface with these organizations and document the following:
  - which law enforcement officials in your area are knowledgeable on human trafficking (incorporating input from DHS)?
4. Obtain information from those officials in the development of your protocol.
  - When and how to notify law enforcement
  - Their availability to assist if needed
  - Special security precautions to take
  - Their desire to be involved in training your staff
  - Any other input from law enforcement
5. Which organizations are working with adult victims of trafficking?
  - Document the following on each of these organizations;
    - Type of victims they serve
    - Services provided to victims





- Availability for referral during late night and weekend hours
- Criteria for acceptance into their programs
- Any advice from the organization while developing protocol
- When and how to notify these organizations

6. Which organizations are working with minor victims?

- Document the following on these organisations:
  - Age and sex of victims served
  - Services provided to victims
  - Availability for referral during late night and weekend hours
  - Criteria for acceptance into their programs
  - Any advice from the organization while developing protocol
  - When and how to notify these organizations
- Ask the organization working with minors if there is an established contact with child protective services.
- Contact this person and obtain their information while developing your protocol for reports.
  - When and how to notify child protective services
  - Special precautions to take
  - Availability of personnel during late night and weekend hours
  - Procedure to follow during late night and weekend hours
- If there is no known contact person with child protective services, have your designated staff person contact your local child protective service agency to establish a contact and obtain the information noted above.

7. Educate yourself and your entire medical staff about recognizing initial hints and physical signs of trafficking victims. This can be done through online educational modules found at: [www.cmda.org/tip](http://www.cmda.org/tip) and by referencing the accompanying Hope for Justice PDF 'How To Identify a Victim of Human Trafficking'.



NOTE: If you encounter a victim of trafficking prior to completing this protocol, contact the Department of Homeland Security hotline number at: [866-347-2423](tel:866-347-2423).

### **What Does a Good Trafficking Intervention Protocol Include?**

A good trafficking intervention protocol will have the following:

- Designated personnel to spend time with the suspected victim to build trust and a relationship. These individuals should be trained on the following:
  - Both international and domestic trafficking
  - Criteria for defining a minor or an adult as a victim of trafficking
  - How to build trust with victimized people
  - Appropriate questions to ask either international or domestic victims
  
- Clear guidelines on the following:
  - How to separate the potential victim from the potential trafficker
  - Management of interpreting services for non-English speaking patients
  - Maintaining patient privacy and confidentiality concerns
  - When to begin to ask the confirming questions
  - Who should make the final determination that the patient is probably a trafficking victim

Guidelines on obtaining the following:

- Additional historical information to obtain from the patient:
  - Number of sexual partners in the past 2 weeks
  - Time and date of last sexual contact
  - Known exposure to sexually transmitted infections
  - Trauma incurred during recent sexual activity
  - Recent new vaginal discharge or gynaecologic symptoms
  - Concern regarding possible pregnancy
  - Other health concerns or symptoms



- Additional physical examination:
  - When to involve SANE and/or forensic evaluation
  - STI testing: gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis, trichomonas, HIV, hep B & C
  - Pap testing (develop protocol for girls <21) dependent on the number of partners
  - Full physical examination and documentation of physical trauma
  
- Information to gather from both the potential victim and trafficker
  - Physical address of the potential victim and trafficker
  - Phone number of potential trafficker and victim
  - Photocopy of ID's such as drivers license of both potential trafficker and potential victim
  - License plate of transportation vehicle
  - Other information recommended by local law enforcement
  - Who will gather that information
  - How information will be obtained
  - When and how to notify law enforcement officials who are knowledgeable about human trafficking
  - When to notify hospital/clinic security personnel
  - When and when NOT to intervene. Suggested indicators of when NOT to intervene:
    - Lack of victim consent
    - Lack of ability to control potential trafficker
    - Lack of clarity regarding the patient's status as a victim of trafficking
    - Imminent danger to staff and/or victim
    - Remember - you are mandated to REPORT; you are not mandated to intervene