

Human Trafficking

Reason for education: New Public Health Law 2805-Y-Identification and assessment of human trafficking victims

Start Date: 6/4/18

Policy(s):

- Hospital Administrative Manual V-11 Victims of Violence, Abuse, or Neglect
<https://upstate.ellucid.com/documents/view/1357>

- Hospital/Administrative Manual P-46 Patient Consent for Photography or Other Visual or Audio Recordings by Upstate Staff
<https://upstate.ellucid.com/documents/view/1308>

The new law states that every general hospital, public health center, diagnostic center, treatment center or outpatient department shall establish policies and provide for the identification, assessment, and appropriate treatment or referral of persons suspected as human trafficking victims, and in the case of persons under eighteen years old, the reporting of the abused or maltreated child.

The assessment and screening related to all Upstate University Hospital inpatients and outpatients will now include screening related to Human Trafficking.

The nurse will assess for the following red flags and document in EPIC:

- ☒ Someone else is speaking for the patient or won't allow the patient to be left alone with the healthcare professional
- ☒ Patient is not aware of his/her location, the current date or time.
- ☒ Patient is not able to provide identification forms
- ☒ Patient exhibits fear, anxiety, PTSD, submission or tension
- ☒ Patient shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, or medical neglect
- ☒ If injuries are present, the history is not consistent with the injury
- ☒ Patient is reluctant to explain his/her injury

The nurse will ask the following screening questions:

- ☒ Have you been forced to engage in sexual acts for money or favors?
- ☒ Is someone holding your passport or identification documents?
- ☒ Has anyone threatened to hurt you or your family if you leave?
- ☒ Has anyone physically or sexually abused you?
- ☒ Do you have a debt to someone you cannot pay off?
- ☒ Does anyone take all or part of the money you earn?

What providers need to know:

- o Hospital Social Work will be notified by the RN and follow up action taken.
 - The local Human Trafficking Hotline will be called.
 - The NHTRC (National Human Trafficking Hotline) can assist in assessing the current level of danger.
 - Law enforcement may need to be notified to ensure victim safety.
 - Referrals to other local resources should be made (ie. Vera House)
- o University Police will be involved for immediate danger concerns.
- o If visible injuries are present, Hospital Social Work will obtain photographs of area if deemed necessary.
- o Consent guidelines must be followed for photography or other visual or audio recordings by Upstate staff.