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Human Trafficking Response: Resources for Health Care Professionals

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER

The American Hospital Association hosts HEAL Trafficking and the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center

The American Hospital Association partners with HEAL Trafficking and Jones Day Law Firm to combat human trafficking

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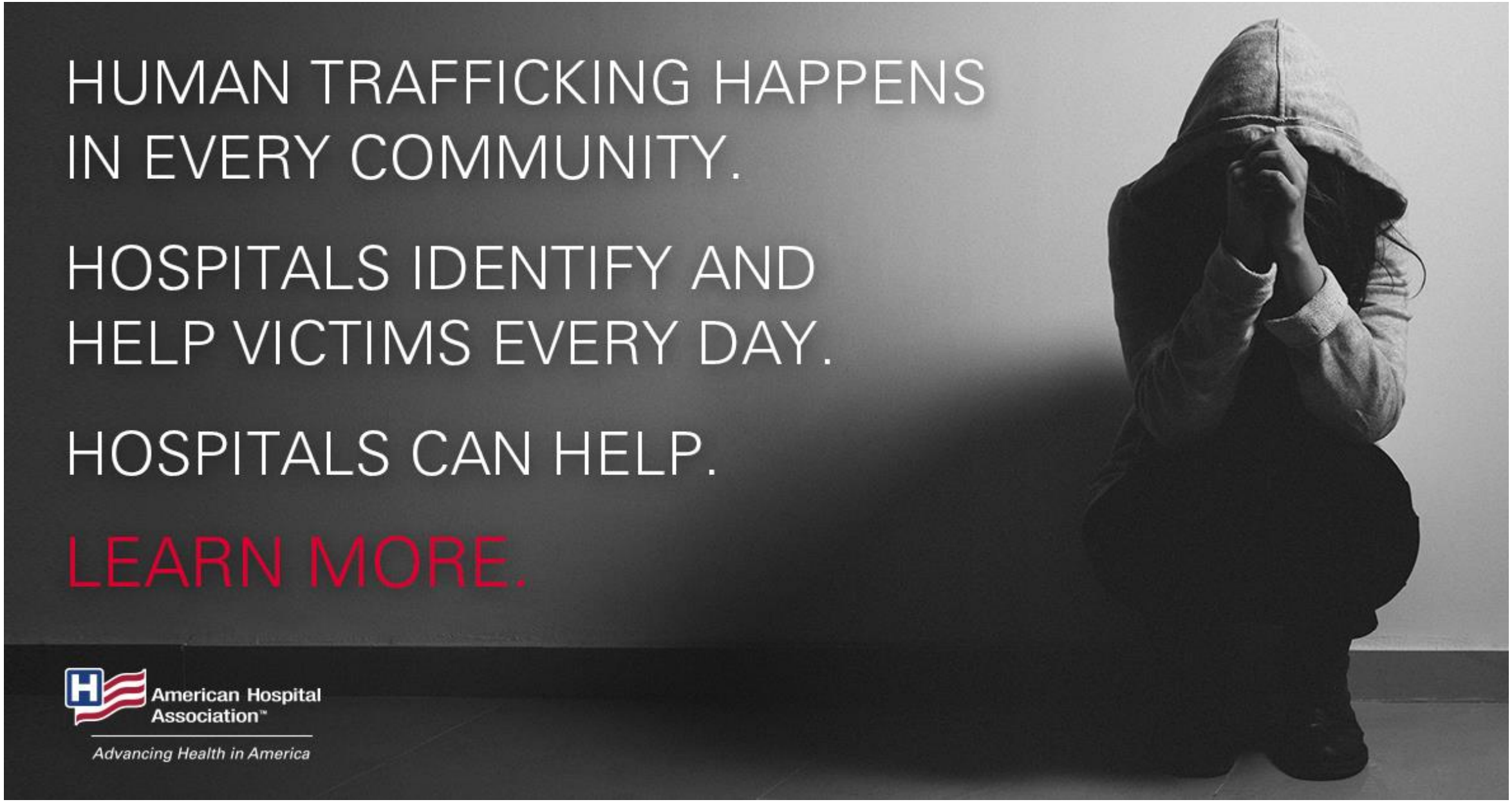
HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPENS
IN EVERY COMMUNITY.
HOSPITALS IDENTIFY AND
HELP VICTIMS EVERY DAY.
HOSPITALS CAN HELP.
LEARN MORE.
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Speakers

Ashley Garrett
Director
National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center

Dr. Hanni Stoklosa, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director
HEAL Trafficking

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Case Scenario

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Case

A young male named Pedro presents to the ED triage area. He is accompanied by his friend Martin who says he got hurt on the construction site. He wants to make sure he gets checked out and gets whatever pain medicine he needs so he can take him back home to work. Martin insists on staying with him because he will help with translation as Pedro speaks Spanish primarily.

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Pedro has no identification. Martin apologizes, saying he forgot to bring his wallet but he explains that it doesn’t matter because he is new to the area and doesn’t have health insurance yet, so he will pay cash for his care.

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Screening assessment and vitals in triage reveal a pale, ill-appearing male. The triage nurse, which checking his blood pressure, notes some old bruises on his arm. Pedro neither speaks spontaneously nor makes eye contact. Questions posed to Pedro are answered by Martin. When he is asked to answer questions directly in Spanish, he speaks in monosyllables, and looks at Martin immediately after answering any questions.

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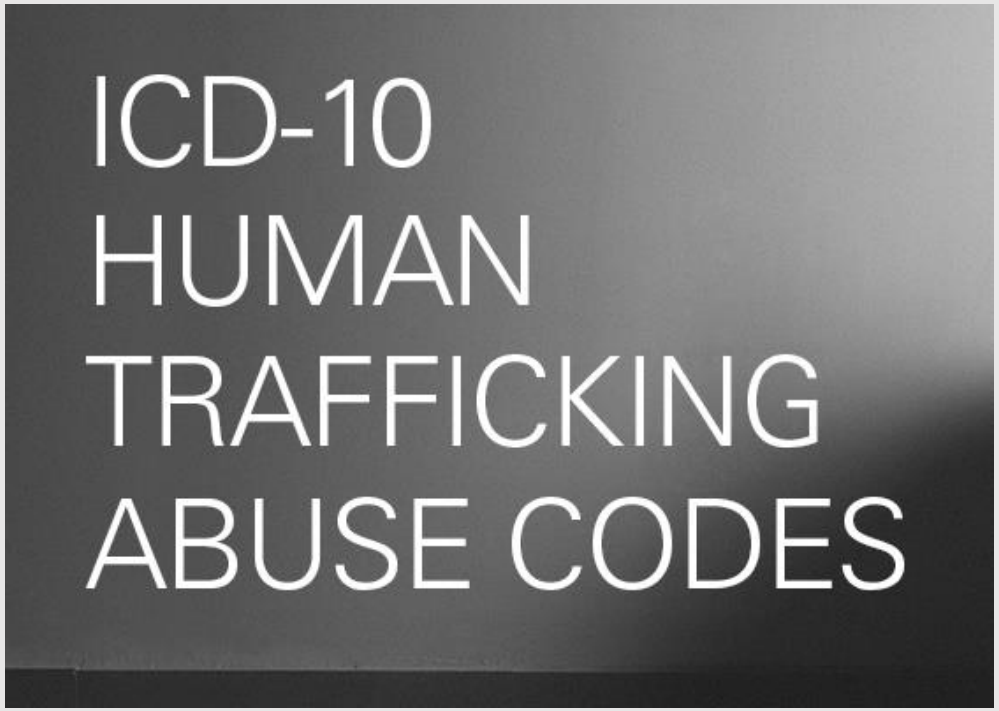

Objectives

- To understand the role of a health care professional in providing trauma-informed care, survivor-centered approach to victims of human trafficking
- Discuss the importance of the recently available ICD-10 diagnostic codes for human trafficking
- Discuss available resources, training and technical assistance for hospitals and health systems

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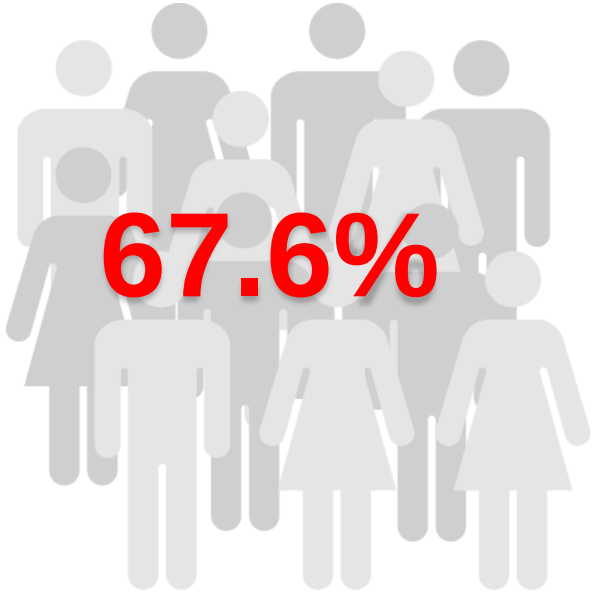
Identifying Trafficking in Health Care Settings



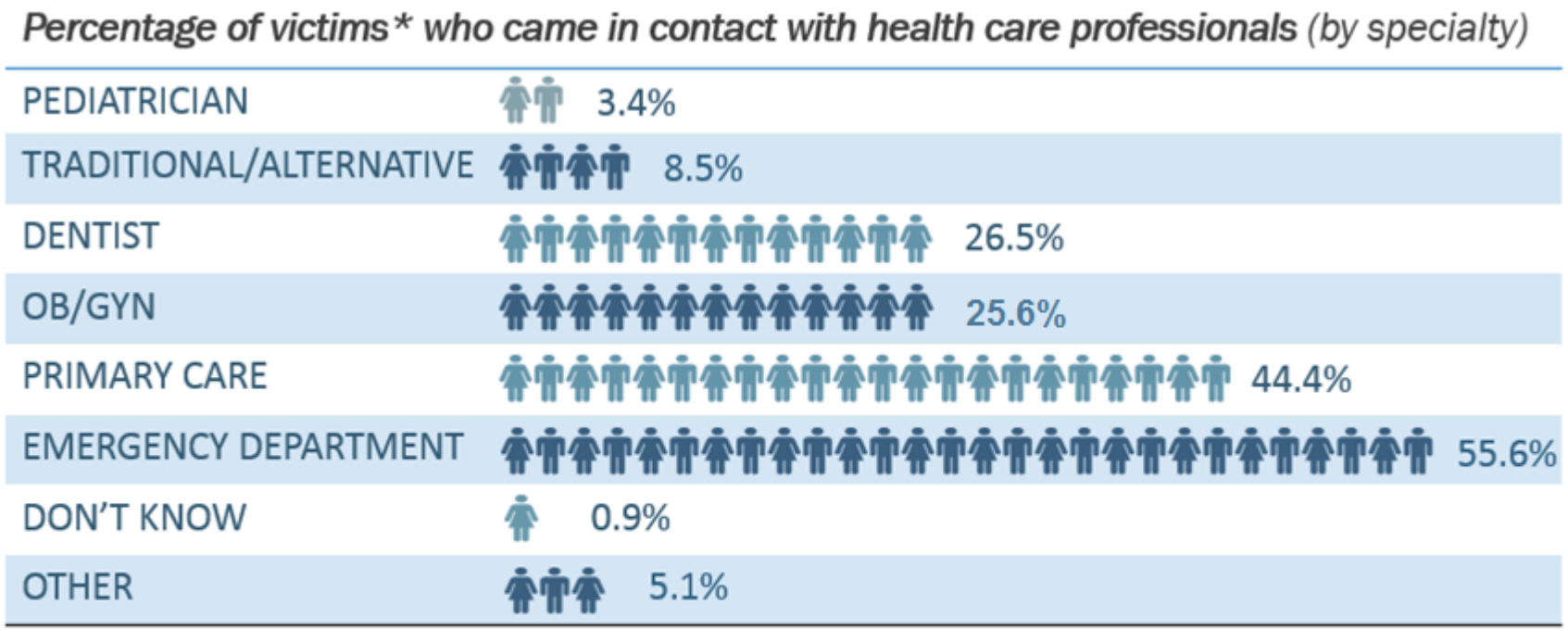
Individuals who have been trafficked are highly likely to come into contact with someone within the health system

Chisolm-Straker, M., Baldwin, S., Gaïgbé-Togbé, B., Ndukwe, N., Johnson, P., Richardson, L. (2016). Health care and human trafficking: We are seeing the unseen. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, 27*(3), 1220–1233. https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2016.0131

Poll: Please rate your level of confidence in your ability to identify and respond to human trafficking

- Very Low
- Low
- High
- Very High

Who They Meet



Data in chart: Chisolm-Straker, M., Baldwin, S., Gaïgbé-Togbé, B., Ndukwe, N., Johnson, P., Richardson, L. (2016). Health care and human trafficking: We are seeing the unseen. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, 27*(3), 1220–1233. https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2016.0131

Related Study: Chisolm-Straker M, Richardson L. Assessment of emergency department provider knowledge about human trafficking victims in the ED. Acad Emerg Med. 2007; 14 (suppl1):134

Human Trafficking

10 Red Flags that Your Patient Could be a Victim

1. Clinical presentation and oral history don't match up
2. Oral history is scripted, memorized or mechanical
3. Someone with the patient exerts an unusual amount of control over the visit
4. Patient appears fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, hyper-vigilant or paranoid
5. Patient is concerned about being arrested or jailed
6. Patient is concerned for his/her family's safety
7. Evidence that care has been lacking for prior or existing conditions
8. Tattoos or insignia's indicative of ownership
9. Occupational-type injuries or physical ailments linked to their work
10. Sexually transmitted infections

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HOSPITALS AGAINST VIOLENCE

Creating a Health Care Response Protocol

1. Preparation
2. Identification
3. Response

Adapted from the HEAL Trafficking Protocol Toolkit

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Poll: Does your organization have a current human trafficking policy and/or protocol for: (check all that apply)

- Screening
- Referrals
- Reporting
- Clinical Care

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Basic Education Essentials

- ❑ Definitions inclusive of labor and sex trafficking
- ❑ Scope
- ❑ At-risk populations
- ❑ Survivor experiences
- ❑ Red flags in health care settings
- ❑ Roles and responsibilities of different staff
- ❑ Crisis response resources

(Photo: Cineberg / iStock)

Extended Education Essentials

Extended education should be provided to those who will oversee patients who may be experiencing trafficking.

- ❑ Victim-centered care
- ❑ Trauma-informed care
- ❑ Screening approaches for different patient populations
- ❑ Internal protocols
- ❑ Case scenarios

(Photo: Cineberg / iStock)

Poll: Does your organization provide training for staff on human trafficking?

- Mandatory
- Voluntary
- None

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Best Practices- Documentation

- Dual Purpose: Medical Care & Communication and Medical-Legal
- Variation in state and local laws
- Consult with local prosecutors, defense attorneys, and advocates
  - Example: HIV transmission; rape shield laws
- General Principles:
  - Document Patient History
  - Document Physical Findings

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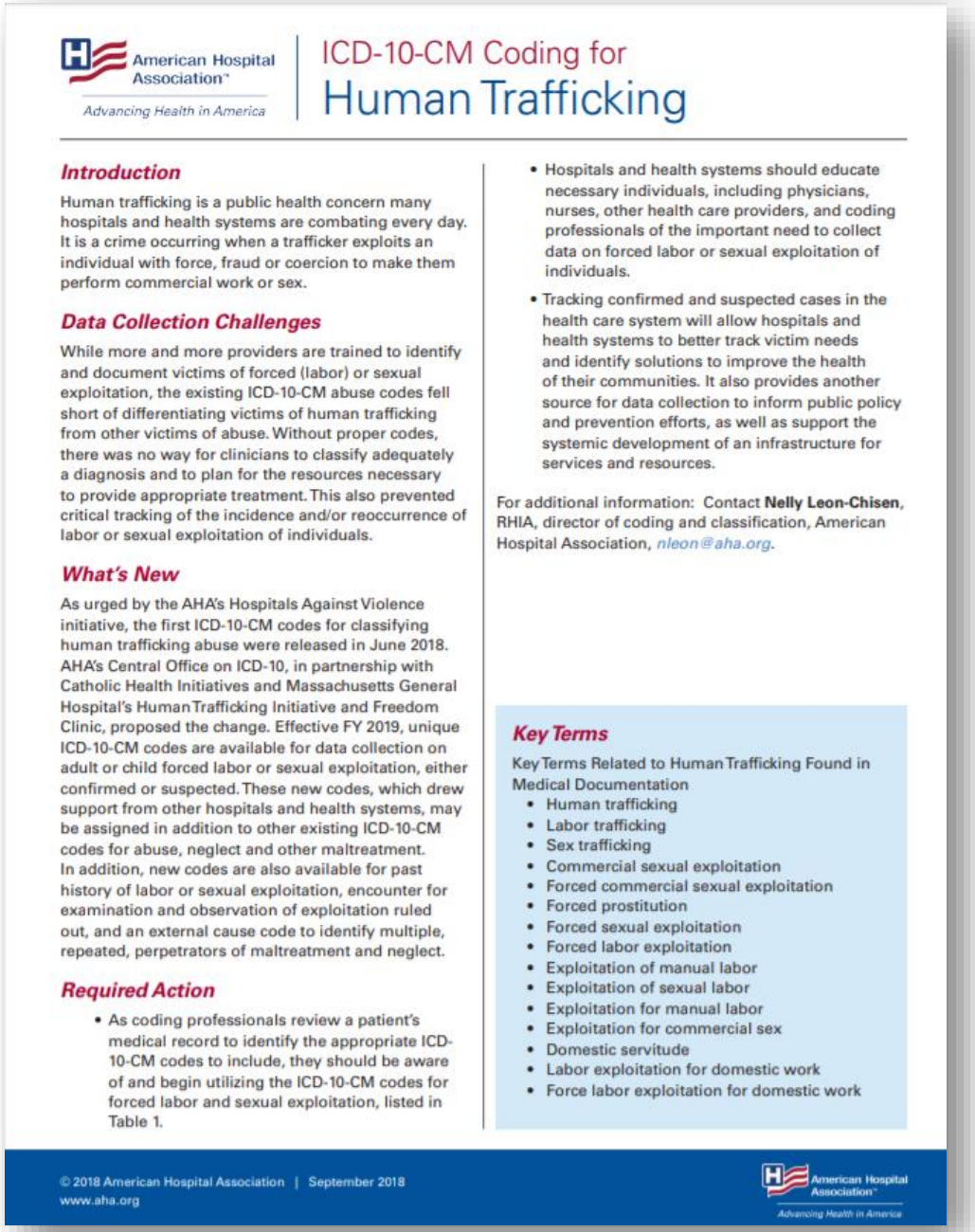
ICD-10 Code for Human Trafficking



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ICD-10-CM Coding for Human Trafficking

Introduction

Human trafficking is a public health concern many hospitals and health systems are combating every day. It is a crime occurring when a trafficker exploits an individual with force, fraud or coercion to make them perform commercial work or sex.

Data Collection Challenges

While more and more providers are trained to identify and document victims of forced (labor) or sexual exploitation, the existing ICD-10-CM abuse codes fell short of differentiating victims of human trafficking from other victims of abuse. Without proper codes, there was no way for clinicians to classify adequately a diagnosis and to plan for the resources necessary to provide appropriate treatment. This also prevented critical tracking of the incidence and/or reoccurrence of labor or sexual exploitation of individuals.

What's New

As urged by the AHA's Hospitals Against Violence initiative, the first ICD-10-CM codes for classifying human trafficking abuse were released in June 2018. AHA's Central Office on ICD-10, in partnership with Catholic Health Initiatives and Massachusetts General Hospital's Human Trafficking Initiative and Freedom Clinic, proposed the change. Effective FY 2019, unique ICD-10-CM codes are available for data collection on adult or child forced labor or sexual exploitation, either confirmed or suspected. These new codes, which drew support from other hospitals and health systems, may be assigned in addition to other existing ICD-10-CM codes for abuse, neglect and other maltreatment. In addition, new codes are also available for past history of labor or sexual exploitation, encounter for examination and observation of exploitation ruled out, and an external cause code to identify multiple, repeated, perpetrators of maltreatment and neglect.

Required Action

- As coding professionals review a patient's medical record to identify the appropriate ICD-10-CM codes to include, they should be aware of and begin utilizing the ICD-10-CM codes for forced labor and sexual exploitation, listed in Table 1.
- Hospitals and health systems should educate necessary individuals, including physicians, nurses, other health care providers, and coding professionals of the important need to collect data on forced labor or sexual exploitation of individuals.
- Tracking confirmed and suspected cases in the health care system will allow hospitals and health systems to better track victim needs and identify solutions to improve the health of their communities. It also provides another source for data collection to inform public policy and prevention efforts, as well as support the systemic development of an infrastructure for services and resources.

For additional information: Contact **Nelly Leon-Chisen**, RHIA, director of coding and classification, American Hospital Association, *nleon@aha.org*.

Key Terms

Key Terms Related to Human Trafficking Found in Medical Documentation

- Human trafficking
- Labor trafficking
- Sex trafficking
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Forced commercial sexual exploitation
- Forced prostitution
- Forced sexual exploitation
- Forced labor exploitation
- Exploitation of manual labor
- Exploitation of sexual labor
- Exploitation for manual labor
- Exploitation for commercial sex
- Domestic servitude
- Labor exploitation for domestic work
- Force labor exploitation for domestic work

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Best Practices – EHR Privacy

- Abuse privacy default settings
- Granular customizable privacy controls
- Point-of-care privacy controls for clinicians
- Clear on-screen labeling of confidential data elements
- Built-in abuse privacy-related decision-support tools
- Robust, patient-adjustable proxy access capabilities for patient portals

Recommendations for Electronic Health Record Use for Delivery of Adolescent Health Care. Position paper, Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. Journal of Adolescent Health (2014) 54:487-490, Recommendations 1, 4 and 5

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Best Practices – EHR Privacy

- After-visit summary, bill, and post-visit survey suppression capabilities
- Joint development of abuse privacy standards for health information exchange, e-prescribing, and billing with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information (ONC) and public/private payers

Recommendations for Electronic Health Record Use for Delivery of Adolescent Health Care. Position paper, Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. Journal of Adolescent Health (2014) 54:487-490, Recommendations 1, 4 and 5

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Poll: Have you done any of the following in addressing human trafficking in your organization? (check all that apply)

- Changed my management/leadership or interpersonal communication style
- Further developed skills and knowledge about serving victims of trafficking
- Advocated or met with leadership of my organization to develop/enhance vision, mission, or strategic plan
- Advocated or met with leadership of my organization to develop/enact policy changes at my organization
- Improved programs/practices
- Integrated victim-centered, survivor-informed strategies
- Integrated trauma-informed strategies
- Improved identification and reporting methods for trafficking
- Took other trainings on human trafficking

Poll: Please rate your level of confidence in your ability to apply a public health approach when responding to trafficking

- Very Low
- Low
- High
- Very High

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Poll: Please rate your level of confidence in your ability to use trauma-informed practices when responding to trafficking

- Very Low
- Low
- High
- Very High

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Poll: Please rate your level of confidence in your ability to use cultural and linguistically appropriate practices when responding to trafficking

- Very Low
- Low
- High
- Very High

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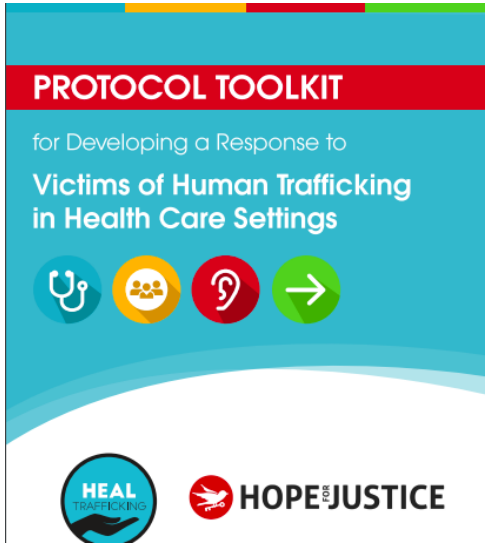
Resources

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

HEAL TRAFFICKING

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE

SOAR TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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