

Signs and Indicators of Human Trafficking for Title X Scheduler, Receptionist, In-Take, and Support Staff



Everyone has a role to play in combating human trafficking. Recognizing key signs and indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. Some common indicators in Title X settings may be:

Signs and Indicators Upon Presenting at Clinic:

- No identification: Driver's License, passport, social security card, other papers
- No identifiable address or home
- Escorted or guarded by someone
- Someone else speaks for the client
- Disoriented, unable to identify whereabouts, unable to identify family and friends
- Wearing inappropriate clothing for the season or place
- Age inappropriate partner or significant other
- Signs of physical abuse: bruises, cuts, burns, broken bones
- Signs of self-harm: scars from repeated cutting
- Clear demonstration or articulation of fear, agitation, anger or other hyper-emotion

Please Note: Indicators are not always present in every human trafficking situation, and if present are alone not proof human trafficking.

Action – Pass on observations, issues and concerns to the clinical staff

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Signs and Indicators of Human Trafficking for Title X Clinician, Nurse, and Physician's Assistant



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Signs and Indicators from Medical History

- Multiple sex partners
- Multiple unintended pregnancies
- Multiple miscarriages
- Multiple past abortions and abortion complications
- Multiple sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Multiple types of contraception used simultaneously or serially
- Multiple urinary tract infections (UTIs)
- History of substance abuse
- History of homelessness

Signs and Indicators from Exam

- Signs of physical abuse: bruises, cuts, burns, broken bones, wounds, unusual scars
- Injuries from violence or hazardous work conditions
- Gynecological complications: cysts, fistula, vaginal fissures, Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), pelvic pain
- Vaginal injuries, bleeding, or tissue damage
- Foreign objects in vagina (sponges, etc.)
- Anal injuries, bleeding, or tissue damage
- Serious communicable diseases such as hepatitis or tuberculosis
- Dermatological issues such as scabies or lice
- Signs of self-harm: e.g., scars from repeated cutting
- Suicidal ideation or suicide attempt
- Malnutrition, dehydration

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