



Origination 1/14/2021
Last Approved 1/14/2021
Effective 1/14/2021
Last Revised 1/14/2021
Next Review 1/14/2024

Owner **Tabitha Marshall:**
**Administrative
Coordinator -
Administration -
HMC**
Policy Area **Patient Care**

Job Guide: Nursing Care of the Human Trafficking Patient

Purpose

Facilitation of at-risk human trafficking patients by a Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) at Hendrick Medical Center (HMC). FNEs will assist when patients present to the emergency department or any other acute care setting within the hospital for treatment and care. Upon consent of the patient (if 18 years or older), the FNE is notified by a health care provider and will assist with treatment, education, and empowerment of the patient using a trauma informed approach.

Guideline

1. Any patient who is treated for injuries and presents with "red flags and indicators" as defined by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center's document "Identifying Victims of Human trafficking: What to Look for in a Healthcare Setting" (attached) are considered potential victims of human trafficking.
2. If a patient presents with "red flags and indicators":
 - a. Provide a hospital approved interpreter if needed.
 - b. If patient is 18 years of age or older and consents, the FNE is notified. If patient is under 18 years of age, law enforcement agency (LEA) and CPS must be notified. LEA and CPS may notify FNE for assistance at any time for patients under 18 years of age. Authorization by law enforcement is needed prior to a sexual assault examination or non-fatal strangulation of all patients except non-reports (Jane/John Doe). Minors cannot have a Jane Doe examination, as it is mandatory to report this to law enforcement.
 - c. Notify immediately if there are safety concerns and hospital protocol is followed for safety threats.
 - d. Contact a Regional Victim Crisis Center (RVCC) advocate. The patient can refuse

advocacy and the forensic examination at any time.

e. Notify a social work representative if patient is admitted into the hospital.

3. The FNE will:

- a. Assess the patient for safety concerns and will attempt to speak with the patient alone.
- b. Based on the information provided, if patient is 18 years or older and consents, law enforcement and social worker are notified.
- c. Notify the toll-free NHTRC hotline for service referrals, assistance to facilitate a report to law enforcement and to determine a safety plan if needed.
- d. Provide an exam and/or treatment if it is determined the patient is a victim of sexual assault or non-fatal strangulation
- e. Assist the patient with community and national resources.
- f. Use forensic photography for physical or sexual abuse and non-fatal strangulation if patient consents.
- g. Provide discharge planning consisting information about available resources, follow-up care if possible, and secure a safety plan.

References

"Screening to Identify Commercially Sexually Exploited Sexually Exploited Children", West Coast Children's Clinic (2017).

National Human Trafficking Resource Center, www.traffickingresourcecenter.org

Attachments

 [Red Flags \(2\).pdf](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Vice President, CNO	Susie Cassle: CNO/VP, Nursing	1/14/2021
Patient Care Policy Committee	Emily Goolsby: Director, Education	1/12/2021
Director, Women's and Children's	Dina Perez: Director, Women's & Children's	1/12/2021

Forensic Nurse Coordinator

Susan Striegler: Forensic Nurse
Coordinator

1/8/2021