Trafficking Guidance for Health Workers

This guidance aims to support NHSGGC health workers to identify and respond to patients who are victims of human trafficking and who are aged 18 and over.

Guidance for Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been trafficked is available at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261528/0078243.pdf.

Trafficking exists in Scotland and victims of trafficking are entitled to all health service treatment including GP services. Contact with a health worker may be the one chance for a trafficked person to get help and protection. We are therefore asking all health workers to look out for the signs of trafficking and take action when you see them.

Any combination of the following factors may indicate that a person has been trafficked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injuries from assault, bruising or scars</th>
<th>From a migrant community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-traumatic stress or psychological disorders</td>
<td>English not first language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work-related injuries that suggest poor health and safety in the workplace</td>
<td>Distrust of authorities/expressing fear /anxiety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually transmitted diseases/signs of rape or sexual abuse</td>
<td>Accompanied by a ‘minder’ who speaks for patient / patient may defer to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeated termination</td>
<td>Found in or connected to a type of location likely to be used for exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Involved in work commonly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit www.equalitiesinhealth.org for further information on trafficking including good practice guidance and additional support services.
unwanted pregnancy
- Untreated medical problems

associated with trafficking
- Passport or documents held by someone else

If you suspect a patient may have been trafficked you should take the following steps:

Arrange private space to speak to the person 1-1

Arrange for interpreting services if required. Provide choice of gender where possible. Assess and address communication support needs. **Never use accompanying person as interpreter**

Sensitively share concerns, and enquire about situation to establish if person trafficked

 Trafficking disclosed

 Carry out risk assessment

 Sexual coercion or assault in last seven days?

 Yes  

 Refer to ARCHWAY and arrange transport  
 Tel: 0141 211 8175

 No 

 Human rights

 Person wishes place of safety

 Refer to Migrant Helpline and arrange transport  
 Tel 07837 937737

 Discuss options and possible outcomes

 Person does not want any action taken

 No concern patient or others are at risk of immediate harm?

 No  

 Discuss safety plan and provide information about where to access support in future

 Concern that patient or others are at risk of immediate harm?

 Concern  

 Contact local police office

 No  

 Discuss options and possible outcomes

 Visit [www.equalitiesinhealth.org](http://www.equalitiesinhealth.org) for further information on trafficking including good practice guidance and additional support services.
1. Information about referral services

ARCHWAY is a Sexual Assault Referral Centre based at Sandyford Initiative and provides services for female and male victims of recent rape and sexual assault, follow up care, support sessions and referral to appropriate agencies. Tel: 0141 211 8175 to arrange access. For further information visit www.sandyford.org

MIGRANT HELPLINE (MH) is based in Paisley and provides support including short term accommodation and living expenses to victims of trafficking, and referral into other specialist support services. MH can arrange to pick the victim up e.g. from A&E or GP surgery. MH can be accessed 7 days per week, 24 hours a day including public holidays. Tel: 07837 937737

2. Further information about the trafficking response pathway

- **Interpreting services** should be arranged using NHSGGC protocol. If no face to face interpreter available arrange for telephone interpreting. To provide continuity, the interpreter should accompany the patient to the support service where possible.

- **To enable private time**, direct anyone accompanying the patient to the waiting area. Speak to the patient in a private area where the conversation will not be overheard.

- **To facilitate disclosure** about their circumstances/trafficking start by asking the patient about how they received an injury or whether they are frightened by anyone or have restrictions in accessing health care. Be prepared with appropriate and up-to-date referral information.

Visit [www.equalitiesinhealth.org](http://www.equalitiesinhealth.org) for further information on trafficking including good practice guidance and additional support services.
• **Where possible seek agreement for referral** to Archway/ Migrant Helpline. Where a decision has been taken to refer to another service e.g. police without permission the reasons for this decision should be communicated to the person. Keep the patient informed of progress on the agreed course of action. It is important to remember some trafficking victims have a great fear of the police because of experiences of uniformed services in their country of origin and well-founded threats of reprisals by the traffickers to themselves, friends or family back home if the police become involved.

• **If a ‘minder’ is present, keep patient safe** in the private area while awaiting transport to support service.

• **Document disclosures and actions** in the patient record. Be aware documentation may be used as evidence in the event of any criminal justice proceedings.

### 3. Scottish Government Guidance