Identification of Human Trafficking Victims in the Emergency Department

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Practice Problem:
- Healthcare professionals are not successful in identifying trafficking victims.
- Lack of recognition is related to inadequate training and screening tools.
- Human trafficking victims are most likely to present for care in an Emergency Department.
- Most Emergency Department Providers report they have not received training on the care of human trafficking victims.
- No patients had been identified as potential human trafficking victims in our Emergency Department.

PICO Question:
- Among potential human trafficking victims presenting to the Emergency Department, are screening tools effective in helping staff identify victims?

Confidence in Recognizing Potential Human Trafficking Victims

| Pre-Education | 22% |
| Post-Education | 60% |

Practice Changes:
- Emergency Department RNs screen high risk populations and patients with red flags for human trafficking utilizing specific screening questions.
- Social Workers interview patients with positive screens.
- Notify Unbound Fort Worth Survivor Advocate, if patient consents.

Confidence in Recognizing Potential Human Trafficking Victims

Barriers to Screening for Human Trafficking

- Lack of Education: 22.95%
- Lack of Time: 36.07%
- Not Necessary: 4.92%
- Don't Remember: 36.02%
- Other: 21.31%

Outcomes:
- 189 patients screened.
- 27 potential victims.
- 16 probable victims.
- 5 confirmed victims.
- 2 patients accepted help.

- Audit showed many high-risk patients not screened.
- Staff survey revealed staff screened verbally without recording screen.

Barriers Identified:

Actions:
- Ongoing education in Identification and Management of Human Trafficking Victims.
- Education in Trauma Informed Care.
- Exploring easier screening process.
- Identified ways to provide privacy.
- Collaborating with management to add Screening Tool in EHR.

Implementation/Pilot:
- Team of ED clinical staff, ED Admissions, Social Work, Behavioral Health determined screening questions, red flags and how to educate staff.
- Staff surveyed for baseline knowledge.
- Education provided on Risk Factors, Red Flags, Screening Questions and Response/Resources.
- Screening Tool provided to staff.
- Staff re-surveyed with knowledge improvement.

Literature Evidence:
- Comprehensive literature search with online databases complete.
- Heal Trafficking & Shared Hope International Protocols reviewed.
- No validated screening tool exists for identifying human trafficking victims in the Emergency Department.

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