



Caring for patients that screen POSITIVE for trafficking

Positioned to care:

Improving identification and screening of
victims of human trafficking in Colorado

*People who are
surviving
trafficking are
likely to have
suffered
trauma:*

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Lack of access to safe food, water or shelter
- Loss of control or agency over their own lives
- Emotional abuse
- Lack of medical care
- Isolation from stable social structures

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○ If a patient
answers
YES to any
screening
question....

- Provide care that is trauma informed –
 - Be kind and non-judgemental
 - Be honest and transparent
 - Allow as much choice as you can for the patient
- Provide the care they need for the reason they came
 - Treat the medical issues
 - With as much autonomy for the patient as you possibly can
- Provide safety for the patient during the visit (and after)
 - Alert security
 - Allow anonymous record
 - Limit visitors

Provide medical care

- That's why they came into the ED or called EMS
- Treat the chief complaint and screen for other issues
- Consider need for further care including:
 - Nutrition
 - Wound or injury care
 - OB / Gyn care if needed
 - STI screening or treatment
 - Follow up care once they leave the ED

Assess the trafficking concerns

- If Social Work is available – ask for their help
- If it's just you – ask follow up questions...
 - “I’m sorry that has happened to you. This raises my concern for your safety. Can I ask more questions to help figure out what we should do next?”
- If trafficking is likely or concerning – the next steps depend on the patient’s age

If the patient is ≥ 18 years old:



Ask if the patient would like help and /or resources

- Help with reporting to law enforcement / FBI task force
- Help with obtaining social services
- Help with accessing trafficking victim supports like Project STAR,
- Help with safety planning

If they refuse or decline

- Assure them that they can always come back to the ED if they need help
- Provide them with information they can use later – provide this safely!!!
 - Text BEFREE will get quick, quiet assistance from Project STAR
- Continue to care for the patient with kindness and respect

If the patient
is < 18 years
old:

Trafficking is child abuse and needs to be
reported as abuse



If you suspect the patient may be trafficked –
you **MUST** report it:

Local regulations apply

Local law enforcement,
Department of Human
Services, Child Protection
agencies must be informed

Victim support services like
Project STAR can help

If the patient is < 18

- **Don't** promise you will keep their confidence (it will need to be reported)
- **Do** keep the patient safe
- **Do** treat their medical concerns
- **Do** offer follow up with
 - Survivor services
 - Pediatric care
 - Infectious disease if needed for HIV or hepatitis exposure
 - Trauma informed counselling services
 - Regional resources
- **Do** let the patient know that the ED is a safe place for them to return

If the patient is < 18 years old:

Keep them safe

Keep the child safe in the ED until LE/DHS can investigate

Separate

May need to separate the presenting “caregiver” from the patient

Provide care

Provide medical care as well as support to the patient:

- Food, warm blankets
- Screen for STI, other injuries, Suicidal ideation

Treat Medical Concerns

- Overall Health
 - Assess overall health, nutritional status, hydration
 - Assess and treat acute and chronic medical and dental needs
- Mental Health
 - Assess for acute mental health needs
 - Assess for suicidality
- Sexual Health
 - If patient with uterus
 - Test for pregnancy
 - Offer emergency contraception
 - Warm handoff referral for long acting contraception if desired
 - Test for STI – GC, Chlamydia, HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis
 - Offer prophylactic/empiric treatment for STI including HIV Prep if appropriate

Documentation

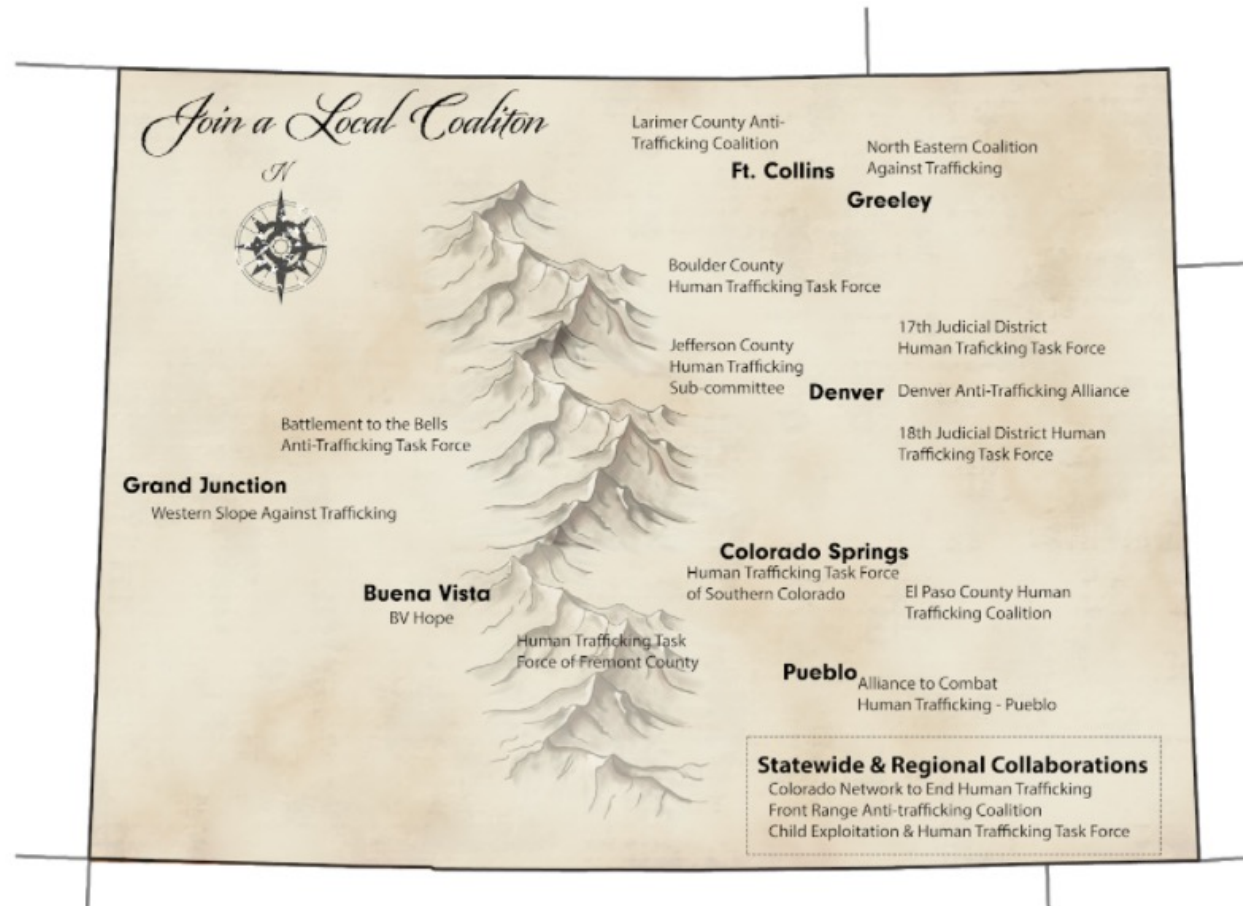
- **Exam findings/suspicion**
 - Document tattoos, branding, injuries
 - Document red flags for future providers
 - Documenting acute/remote injuries, genital and extragenital (cutaneous, oral, closed head, neck, thoracoabdominal injuries, and skeletal fractures)
- **Safe documentation**
 - Document concerns where providers only have access (Including for survivors, who are at risk of re-victimization)

What if we are still worried but there is no disclosure and the screen is negative?

- We've established that we care
- Remind the patient we are a safe place to seek care
- Treat the medical problems we see today and provide outpatient referrals
 - Behavioral Health if appropriate
 - Primary care resources in the community
 - Provide resources for food, housing or other needs

Resources

STATEWIDE COLLABORATIONS



(National Human Trafficking Hotline, 2021)

Resources

Continúa

To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement:	Para reportar un posible caso de trata de personas:
1-866-347-2423	1-866-347-2423
To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline:	Obtenga ayuda de la Línea Directa Nacional de Trata de Personas:
1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)	1-888-373-7888 o enviando un mensaje de texto con HELP o INFO to BeFree (233733)

Follow the Blue Campaign

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE	Call 1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711) *Text 233733 Live Chat
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Please complete the post-education survey below before continuing:

To reach the survey – you can:

- Click on the link below:

<https://redcap.childrenscolorado.org/surveys/?s=7PKPR87FXEA83CX3>

Type the following into a browser:

<https://redcap.childrenscolorado.org/surveys/>

And enter the code below:

X9FY8EECC

- Scan the QR code below



Please note – you can still receive Continuing education credit if you do not chose to participate in the survey. The surveys are anonymous and will be used to improve education and support ongoing education for human trafficking.

To claim credit for this continuing education module please use the following:

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- Click on the link below:

<https://ce.childrencolorado.org/content/positioned-care-improving-identification-victims-labor-and-sex-trafficking#group-tabs-node-course-default4>

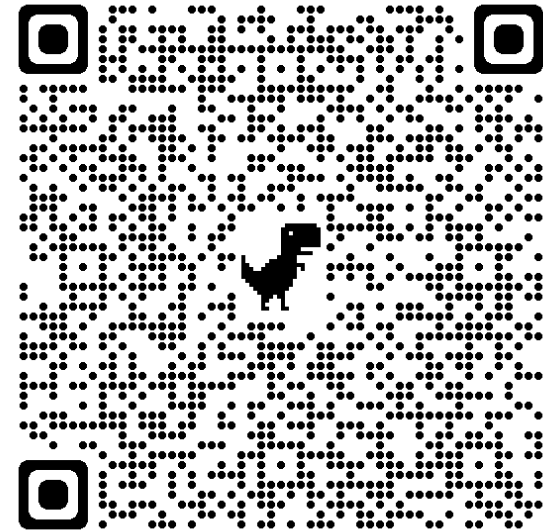
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