

## **Human Trafficking and Exploitation**

### **By Dr. Melanie Ryper**

#### **Identifying Victims**

- ❖ Sexual/ Reproductive health consequences
- ❖ Mental health consequences
- ❖ Substance misuse/ Abuse
- ❖ Evidence of physical abuse and deprivation
- ❖ Workplace injury or exposure
- ❖ Inappropriate attire or expensive clothing/ accessories
- ❖ Tattoos or other types of branding
- ❖ Unusual dynamic between patient and partner
- ❖ Lack of official documents
- ❖ Temporary foreign workers/ Non-english speaking
- ❖ Unaware of their surroundings
- ❖ Constant use of cell phone/monitored
- ❖ Possession of hotel cards, gym passes, Vanilla Visa cards, lubricant, wipes, condoms
- ❖ Vague, scripted or inconsistent history
- ❖ Injury does not match the mechanism
- ❖ Delay in seeking care

#### **Screening for Violence**

- ❖ Do you feel safe at home? At work?
- ❖ Has anyone tried to hurt you physically or sexually?
- ❖ Has anyone forced or pressured you to do anything you did not want to do?
- ❖ Do you have access to ID and travel documents?
- ❖ Are you being paid for your work?
- ❖ How many hours do you work in a day?
- ❖ What are your working conditions like?
- ❖ Where do you live, eat, sleep?
- ❖ Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, use the bathroom?
- ❖ Are your loved ones being threatened?
- ❖ Are you free to go where you please?
- ❖ Lifestyle questions (Where do you sleep? Access to food?)

## **Resources for Health Care Workers**

Ministry of Child Protection Services 1-800-663-9122 or 604-660-4927 (24 hrs)

Deborah Gates (Salvation Army) at 1-855-332-4283 or 604-347-9500  
email [info@deborahgate.ca](mailto:info@deborahgate.ca), website: <https://www.deborahsgate.ca/>

Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP) at 1-888-712-7974

VictimLink 1-800-563-0808

Chrysalis 24/7 National Toll Free Counselling Line 1-866-528-7109,  
[chrysalisnetwork.org](http://chrysalisnetwork.org)

RCMP Human Trafficking Coordinator 604- 230-1215

VPD - Counter Exploitation Unit 604-717-2586