

# Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

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## Target Audience

This continuing education activity was designed specifically for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians

## Disclosure Statement

The author has indicated that she does not have any conflicts of interest, nor does she have financial relationships with a commercial interest, related to this activity.

## Learning Objectives

At the end of this activity, participants will be able to:

- define the types of human trafficking, its venues and who it affects.
- recognize the warning signs of trafficking and how to identify trafficking victims in pharmacy and health care settings.
- identify resources for pharmacy personnel to report trafficking and provide support to suspected victims.

## Background

Human trafficking is defined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as the “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons (the act), by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person (the means), for *exploitation* (the purpose).”<sup>1</sup> Exploitation includes, but is not limited to, prostitution, forced labor or services, slavery or other similar practices. The most common types of human trafficking will be discussed throughout this article.

Human trafficking is today’s modern form of slavery. It is the second largest criminal activity in the world and is a growing phenomenon.<sup>2</sup> In 2012, it was estimated that nearly 21 million people are victims of forced labor, including sexual exploitation as well as labor exploitation in agriculture, construction, domestic work, manufacturing and other areas.<sup>3</sup> Trafficking typically originates in disadvantaged areas with high level of poverty, lack of opportunity and high crime rates but can also exist in communities of any socioeconomic class.<sup>4</sup>

Traffickers often lure victims in by promising reliable income and opportunity if they agree to work with them. However, the traffickers then keep victims enslaved by way of several different techniques that all work to instill fear into the victim in order to keep them compliant. Various techniques include financial obligations; isolation from the public and from family and friends; confiscation of identification documents, including passports and visas; threatening deportation if authorities are notified; or threatening violence toward the victim or the victim’s loved ones. The fear and/or feelings of loyalty to perpetrators that victims experience is the driving force behind their continued captivity.

Human trafficking is illegal and is punishable by both federal and Michigan law. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 was the first federal law to combat human trafficking. This act serves to improve public awareness of trafficking and protect foreign victims of trafficking by making them eligible for benefits such as education, health care, employment and other programs, to the same extent as refugees. TVPA was initially focused on trafficking across international borders and foreign victims but provisions in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2013 improved protection against trafficking for U.S. citizen victims as well. This act defines a minor as anyone under the age of 18 and states that they do not have to prove force or coercion in cases involving minors. Another important aspect of the TVPA is that human trafficking is now a federal crime with severe penalties and also mandates restitution for victims.<sup>5</sup> Michigan first enacted laws against human trafficking in 2006, with various amendments to strengthen the law throughout the years. Michigan law against human trafficking enhances restitution for victims. Victims can ask for payment for suffering, including medical costs as well as compensation for the value of the years of life they lost as a result of the crime. A full description of the Michigan law against human trafficking can be found at MCL 750.462a.<sup>6</sup>

Victims are in need of support far beyond the prosecution of their traffickers. The mental, physical and social implications of human trafficking on victims are tremendous. Victims are left with many health problems, including physical and psychological trauma. Providing help to victims can be difficult due to the hidden nature of the crime. Many victims of trafficking are hidden in plain sight, sitting right in front of you, yet are too afraid to speak up. Pharmacies are a good place to start improving victim identification. It is estimated that 48 percent of all Americans take at least one prescription drug and that number continues to rise.<sup>7</sup> This high rate of prescription use places pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in a situation where they may unsuspectingly interact with many victims of human trafficking. This article will help pharmacists and technicians to improve victim recognition. With proper education on how to identify victims, pharmacists and technicians can help the fight to end human trafficking and provide the necessary resources to suspected victims.<sup>8</sup>

### **Types of Human Trafficking**<sup>3,9,10</sup>

Human trafficking is most commonly thought of as sex trafficking. However, sex trafficking is only one type of human trafficking. Other types include forced labor, child labor, child soldiers, debt bondage and involuntary domestic servitude.

Sex trafficking is the recruitment and transportation of persons (men, women, boys or girls) through threat or force for the purpose of sexual exploitation, including prostitution. Of the 21 million victims of trafficking, 4.5 million are victims of forced sexual exploitation.<sup>3</sup> Child sex trafficking is a subtype of sex trafficking that is specific to minors under the age of 18 and involves sexual exploitation of a child for prostitution or pornography with or without payment to the child, the adult trafficker, or other third parties.

Forced labor is a growing concern in the United States. It occurs when individuals are coerced or forced to work for free or for less than standard wages. Immigrants are particularly vulnerable due to their desire to come to the United States for opportunity and money. Traffickers often target immigrants to take advantage of them, confiscate their identification documents and force them to work for free or cheap by instilling the fear of deportation into the victim. Although forced labor is most common among immigrants, it can occur in all ethnicities, regardless of citizenship status.

Child labor occurs when children are forced or coerced to work for the trafficker either by physical or psychological force. Minors under the age of 18 cannot consent to labor exploitation under any circumstance. For instance, if a minor states they like working in harsh working conditions for little to no pay, and are unable to attend school, they are victims of child labor. This is illegal, regardless of the child's consent to the act.

Debt bondage, also referred to as debt slavery or bonded labor, occurs when traffickers require labor for the repayment of a real or alleged debt; however, do not apply the victim's wages to toward the debt, nor do they define the amount of work or duration of work the individual needs to do in order to repay the debt. The intentions of the trafficker are to trap the victim in a cycle of debt that they are unable to pay off. Traffickers use this debt to keep control over a person and may even add debt whenever they deem necessary (for example, when they perceive the victim to have misbehaved). Another example of debt bondage is providing a loan to an individual and requiring that person to pay back the loan at an unreasonably high interest rate knowing the wages they make will never allow the individual to pay the loan off. This ensures the individual to have to continue to work for the trafficker long-term.

Involuntary servitude is also a form of forced labor but is unique in that it involves domestic workers who live and work in the same setting, on private property, such as their boss's home. Exploitation is common in these instances because authorities do not and cannot routinely inspect private property as they would inspect normal workplaces. Victims may be referred to as domestic servants and are required to work for the trafficker. Victims may or may not receive pay and are held captive through either force or psychological means. An example of involuntary servitude could be when Kevin hires an illegal immigrant from Mexico as a nanny to clean and cook in his home. Upon entering the home to begin working, Kevin confiscates the nanny's legal documents and tells her if she tries to leave he will report her to legal authorities and they will deport her. To avoid deportation, the nanny continues to work out of fear. The nanny is a victim of involuntary servitude forced upon her by Kevin through psychological means and threats.

Immigrants are not the only victims of involuntary servitude. Involuntary servitude can take many shapes and forms. Take this second scenario as an example: Billy grew up with a controlling father. Although

he is no longer a minor and can legally make decisions for himself, his father threatens that if Billy does not clean or work for him, his father will cause serious harm to him. Billy is a victim of involuntary servitude with the trafficker being his father. His father is using force and coercion to keep him compliant to his wishes, despite Billy being an adult and legally able to make his own decisions.<sup>9</sup>

### STOP AND REFLECT

**Sam is a 10-year-old boy who works on a peanut farm at the request of his parents. When interviewed, he states that he has to sleep outside, is not provided any shelter and does not have any parental supervision. He says he doesn't have time to play or go to school but he doesn't mind because he is helping his family out by being on the farm and working. Is Sam a victim of human trafficking?**

Child soldiers are girls and boys under 18 years of age who have been recruited by armed forces, (rebel organizations or governmental entities) and are required to fight, cook, work, spy, act as a messenger and/or perform sexual favors. Since 2011, there are 19 countries that have been reported to use child soldiers in the national army or armed opposition groups. Most of the countries where use of child soldiers are reported are from the Middle East and Asia.<sup>11</sup> Please see Table 1 for a complete summary of human trafficking types and a description of each type.

**Table 1. Summary of Types of Human Trafficking<sup>3,9,10</sup>**

Major Type	Description
<b>Forced Labor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most common type of human trafficking</li> <li>• Employers take advantage of gaps in laws to exploit vulnerable workers. Workers are vulnerable due to poverty, high unemployment rates, political corruption and crime.</li> </ul>
<b>Child Sex Trafficking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual exploitation of a child by an adult, typically accompanied by payment to the child or other third parties.</li> </ul>
<b>Child Soldiers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls and boys under 18 years of age who have been recruited by armed forces (rebel organizations as well as governmental entities) and required to fight, cook, work, spy and/or perform sexual favors.</li> </ul>
<b>Debt Bondage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also referred to as “bonded labor”</li> <li>• Use of a bond/debt to keep control over victims</li> </ul>
<b>Child Labor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minors under 18 years of age are engaged in forms of labor that interferes with their ability to attend and complete schooling.</li> </ul>
<b>Involuntary Domestic Servitude</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurs when a person becomes caught up in a situation they are unable to escape. This typically includes when the victim works in the employer’s private home and the individual is forced to work for little or no pay and prohibited from leaving the property either by force (locks and chains) or by threats.</li> </ul>
<b>Sex Trafficking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roughly 53 percent of human trafficking victims are victims of sexual exploitation.</li> <li>• Defined as the recruitment, transportation or harboring of persons through threat, force or other coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation.</li> </ul>

## Venues for Human Trafficking

Michigan is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states for highest number of trafficking victims.<sup>12</sup> One possible explanation for such a high number of trafficking victims is the geographical location of Michigan. Michigan shares a border with Canada, which increases the likelihood of trafficking. Furthermore, a 2001 study on human trafficking named Detroit as one of the main points of entry for human trafficking into the United States. The high number of victims in Michigan could also be related to the large number of people living in poverty and the fact that Michigan has a lot of foreign born workers, both of which are risk factors for human trafficking.<sup>13</sup>

Human trafficking operates through a wide variety of venues. The most commonly known is prostitution on city streets. However, given the many types of human trafficking, there are more venues than just the streets. Other well-known venues include, but are not limited to, businesses such as nail salons, massage parlors, karaoke bars and escort services; residential businesses, including brothels; and delivery services. It can even happen in domestic households, farms and large businesses.<sup>14</sup>

## Victim Characteristics and Risk Factors of Trafficking

The characteristics of victims largely vary depending on the type of trafficking. Sex trafficking is more common in women; however, men as well as girls and boys may also be victims of sex trafficking. Roughly 11.4 million victims are female and 9.5 million are male.<sup>3</sup> It is estimated that 1.8 million children worldwide are exploited in child sex trafficking, either through prostitution or pornography.<sup>3</sup> Ethnicity of victims also depends on the type of trafficking. Victims of sex trafficking are more likely to be white or black; whereas, victims of labor trafficking are more likely to be Asian or Hispanic. Victims of sex trafficking are more likely to be identified as U.S. citizens. In contrast, labor trafficking victims are often undocumented or qualified aliens. Although human trafficking can occur in any community, there are certain factors associated with a higher risk of trafficking potential. These risks include age, poverty, gender inequality, unemployment, sexual abuse, mental and other health problems, political corruption and living in areas with high crime rates.<sup>15</sup>

## Consequences of Human Trafficking

Trafficking usually involves prolonged and repeated trauma that results in short- and long-term consequences for victims. Roughly 92 percent of victims reported having been burned, kicked, punched, beaten, stabbed, raped or abused. Unwanted pregnancy occurs in 71 percent of female victims, 55 percent of which are aborted. Of those aborted, 53 percent are forced abortions. Almost all victims experience physical health complications as a result of trafficking, including neurological deficits, memory impairment, reduced appetite, weight loss, malnutrition, heart issues and dental problems. A huge amount of psychological issues can linger during and long after captivity. Nearly 98 percent of victims report long-lasting depression, shame, guilt, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal ideations. Aside from the psychological implications of human trafficking, trafficking has been shown to have a link between HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) due to the high rate of unprotected sex by victims involved in sex trafficking.<sup>2,16</sup>

There are many misconceptions related to human trafficking. These are documented in Table 2, along with explanations as to why they are false statements and viewpoints.

**Table 2. Misconceptions of Human Trafficking**<sup>17,18</sup>

Misconception	Explanation
“Human trafficking does not happen in the United States.”	This statement is false. Human trafficking exists in every country, including the U.S.
“Victims of human trafficking are only foreign born and poor females.”	This is false. Victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality and may be of any income level.
“Human trafficking is sex trafficking.”	Sex trafficking is a <i>type</i> of human trafficking. There are many types of human trafficking, including forced labor. An example of forced labor is the use of individuals in sweatshops.

“To be considered a victim of trafficking, the individual must be forced or coerced into the act.”	This is false. Some minors under the age of 18 have been identified as victims of human trafficking and may say that they are not a victim and want to continue. However, minors under the age of 18 cannot consent to any exploitation under any circumstance, including labor exploitation.
“To identify a victim of human trafficking, there must be signs of physical restraint, physical force or physical bondage.”	Trafficking does not require physical restraint, force or harm. Traffickers can utilize psychological techniques to keep the victim captive, such as threats or fraud.
“Foreign victims are always undocumented immigrants and/or here illegally.”	Although some foreign victims are undocumented and illegal aliens of the United States, not all foreign victims are in the U.S. illegally; some are in the U.S. with legal visas for a number of reasons.

### Role of Health Care Providers

Health care providers are in a unique position to identify victims and to offer assistance to suspected victims.<sup>19</sup> Health care providers are often the only professionals who are able to interact with victims who are still in captivity.<sup>20</sup> Studies have shown that 28 to 50 percent of trafficking victims in the U.S. encounter a health care professional while in captivity, but were not recognized as victims.<sup>19,21</sup> It is necessary to lessen the burden faced by victims, which can be mediated through health care providers who are educated on victim identification. A small scale study in San Francisco found that an educational presentation to emergency department providers improved self-reported recognition of trafficking victims.<sup>21</sup> It is essential that every health care provider, including pharmacists and technicians, learns and understands the warning signs of a trafficking victim and how to offer help in order to help end the violence and suffering.

### How to Identify Victims in the Health Care Setting

Victims often blame themselves for what has happened and, as a result, do not seek help. Therefore, identification is the first and most important step in providing assistance and protection to human trafficking victims.<sup>22</sup> Tables 3 and 4 provided below describe general warning signs in trafficking victims and warning signs specific to children. It is important to realize that not all victims will appear with physical signs of abuse and one should not assume that a victim has not been identified if there are not any physical signs present. Traffickers use many tactics to keep control of their victims besides physical abuse, for example psychological abuse or verbal threats. Become familiar with the warning signs described below so that you can help to better identify victims.

**Table 3. General Warning Signs**<sup>23,24</sup>

General Warning Signs	
Injuries or signs of physical abuse*	Avoids eye contact
Malnourished (deprivation of food, water, sleep, medical care, etc.)	Always wearing the same clothes, regardless of weather
Disorientation	Fearful of law enforcement
Lack of identification documents	Cannot freely contact friends or family
Few personal belongings	Rarely allowed out alone
Nervous or hesitant to talk to strangers	Fearful, anxious and submissive
Unable to recall his or her own address	Does not know their home or work address
Minor who appears to be in a relationship with a much older person	Works long hours and unable to leave work environment

*\*Do not assume that a victim has not been trafficked if there are no physical signs of abuse*

Children can be a little more difficult to identify. However, with careful observation, identification of child victims can be improved. Keep in mind the following warning signs seen in children so that you may help to identify a suspected child victim.<sup>24</sup>

**Table 4. Warning Signs of Trafficking in Children<sup>24</sup>**

<b>Warning Signs in Children</b>	
No access to parents/guardians	Poor living conditions
No time for play	Lives apart from other children
No friends outside of work or school	Travels alone without an adult
No education	Only provided leftovers for food
Appear intimidated in a way that is atypical for their age	Reports that they eat apart from other members in their family/home
Travel in groups that are unrelated to the individual	Engaged in work or other activities not suitable for children

### **STOP AND REFLECT**

Jennifer is a 27-year-old female admitted to the hospital with bleeding, bruising and swelling all over her body. You are the pharmacist in charge of doing Jennifer's medication reconciliation. Upon conversing with Jennifer, you realize she seems hesitant and nervous to talk with you and she appears to avoid eye contact with you and other members of the health care team. Being a concerned pharmacist, you begin to interview Jennifer about what brought her into the hospital and try to get to know her better. She says all she remembers is falling down and everything is a little blurry from there. When asked about her employment, she says she has a job; however, doesn't know where the job is located. Feeling concerned for Jennifer, you ask her if she has any friends or family that she can contact while in the hospital, but just as she was about to answer, a man walks into the room and introduces himself as Steve. When you ask Jennifer what Steve's relationship is to her, Steve speaks up and informs you that he is her boyfriend and he wants to know what is the purpose of you being in the room. What warning signs of trafficking does Jennifer display?

### **Red Flags in the Pharmacy and other Health Care Settings<sup>25-28</sup>**

There are specific characteristics of trafficking you should watch out for in the pharmacy and other health care settings to help identify victims. Below is a list of red flags that pharmacists, technicians and other health care providers may come across that can help identify and save a victim.

- Victim is often escorted to and from appointments and the escort may often talk for the patient
- Inconsistencies in the story provided by the victim
- Victim may be unsure how they were injured
- May have multiple STDs and may be unclear on how they contracted a disease
- May request for documentation or certification that they no longer are infected with an STD
- Evidence of lack of health care-advanced symptoms and old or untreated injuries.
- Presence of branding, scarring or tattoo indicating ownership by someone
- No insurance coverage/cash payments
- Pregnancy tests or multiple pregnancy concerns
- Prescriptions are routinely lost or stolen
- Patient often calls for early refills
- Frequent injuries
- Pain level remains unchanged, despite pain medications patient is taking
- Frequent filling of medications for STDs
- Oral contraception in young women

## Screening Questions

Pharmacists and other health care providers are in a unique situation to identify trafficking victims and, because of this, it is important to be educated on how to elicit information from suspected victims. It is always best to speak to the patient when they are not accompanied by a spouse, any family or friends. If the patient came into the office accompanied by another person, try to create an opportunity where the individual can get away on their own. If necessary, politely ask the suspected victim if you can speak to them alone, but remember to do so in a way that does not raise suspicions. Additionally, it is important not to begin your conversation by asking directly if they experience beatings or are being held against their will, as victims can become easily defensive. Instead of starting off with such sensitive questions, ask them questions to get to know their story. Ask them where they are from and what they do for a living. Let the more sensitive questions follow in a natural manner, based on how comfortable the patient appears. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recommends the following suggested screening questions for suspected trafficking victims, in no particular order. For additional questions specific to the type of trafficking suspected, please refer to Table 5.<sup>26</sup>

1. Are you being forced or have you ever been forced to do something you do not want to do?
2. Can you leave your current situation if you wanted to?
3. Have you or anyone in your family ever been threatened if you tried to leave your current situation?
4. Have you ever been physically harmed?
5. What is your work and living conditions like?
6. Where do you sleep and eat?
7. Has anyone ever withheld food, water or sleep from you?
8. Do you have to ask permission to do essential daily living activities such as use the bathroom, sleep or eat?
9. Are there locks on windows or doors that prevent you from leaving?
10. Has your identification or documentation been taken away from you?

**Table 5. Suggested Questions to Ask Based on the Type of Suspected Trafficking**

Suspected Type of Coercion	Questions
Fraud/Financial Coercion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did you get your job?</li> <li>• Are you getting paid to do your job?</li> <li>• Do you have a check stub or receipts of payment?</li> <li>• Do you have your own legal documents?</li> <li>• Immigrants:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Why did you come to this country?</li> <li>○ How did you get here?</li> <li>○ Who promised you this job?</li> <li>○ Is the job what you were promised?</li> <li>○ Who organized your travel?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Physical Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has anyone threatened harm to you/a loved one if you tried leaving?</li> <li>• Have you or your family ever been threatened?</li> <li>• Has anyone ever harmed you or others around you?</li> <li>• Were there weapons involved?</li> <li>• Were legal authorities contacted?</li> </ul>
Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you live and work in the same place?</li> <li>• Have you ever been detained against your will? If so, have you ever been restrained through locks or chains?</li> </ul>
Psychological Coercion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are you afraid of?</li> <li>• Why are you afraid of them?</li> <li>• What is your opinion of the police?</li> </ul>

*Adapted from Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking.<sup>29</sup>*

## **Barriers to Reporting**

There is known hesitation among health care professionals to report victims to authorities. There may be worry that if the investigation is not taken seriously, the trafficker may treat the victim even worse and, as a result, the patient is in an even worse position than previously. However, it is essential to know that the abuse can go on for years if the patient is not reported. The moment a victim is believed to be identified, it is crucial to stopping the cycle of abuse. The victim needs to be reported to authorities so that the proper interventions can be made and a thorough investigation can be conducted by law enforcement.<sup>30</sup>

Health care professionals have also expressed worry about HIPAA violations during reporting of victims. It is important to know that the privacy rule permits covered entities to disclose patient health information, without authorization, to public health authorities or other entities that are legally authorized, as long as the purpose of reporting is for preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability. Reports can also include conducting public health surveillance, investigations or interventions as well as reporting child abuse and neglect.<sup>30</sup>

## **Resources for Reporting Suspected Victims**

It is essential health care professionals know how to refer suspected victims to experts for support and how to contact authorities themselves if they believe they have identified a victim. Victims of trafficking are in need of many different avenues of support to overcome and deal with the situations they have experienced. Assistance is needed for victims beyond escaping captivity and criminal prosecution of the offender. Victims also need medical and psychological assistance to help them regain trust and live healthier lives.<sup>22</sup>

Benefits are available to certified victims of trafficking through the HHS, including access to food, health care, employment assistance and other federally-funded services. Victims who are currently U.S. citizens do not need to be certified in order to be eligible for these services. The U.S. government needs to be notified when non-U.S. citizen victims are identified so they can help adjust the victim's immigration status; thus, making the victim eligible for services.

Attempting to rescue a trafficking victim may create an unsafe position, as you have no way of knowing how the trafficker may act out against you or the victim. If you are unsure of how the trafficker or victim will respond, the best action is to contact law enforcement by calling 911. It may also be beneficial to contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. This organization will help identify local resources available to the victim.<sup>31</sup>

If you identify a victim who has escaped a trafficking situation, the victim should be referred for assistance in obtaining shelter, medical care and legal assistance. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center is a national 24-hour, toll-free, multilingual hotline for anti-trafficking and can help locate assistance for the victim. Anyone can call for help, including the victim, pharmacy personnel or anyone who believes they have identified a victim. If you suspect human trafficking or worker exploitation, please contact the U.S. Department of Justice Worker Exploitation Complaint Line at 1-888-428-7581 for help and to alert authorities to the need for an investigation.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has a Victim Assistance Program in place that helps coordinate services to assist human trafficking victims such as crisis intervention, counseling and emotional support.<sup>32</sup> For more information, call 1-866-872-4973. Additional resources and important phone numbers are available below.

### *Resources and Phone Numbers*

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center: 1-888-373-7888
- Law enforcement for human trafficking: 1-866-347-2423 or call 911 in an emergency
- U.S. Department of Justice Worker Exploitation Complaint Line: 1-888-428-7581
- ICE's Victim Assistance Program: 1-866-872-4973

## STOP AND REFLECT

You are practicing in a community pharmacy and a customer named Frank, who you know well, comes in to pick up a prescription. You two get to talking and he, knowing that you are a trusted health professional, asks for advice about his neighbor, Diego, whom he is concerned for. Diego is an immigrant from Colombia and Frank, being a concerned friend, worries about Diego's working conditions. He is worried his friend is being coerced into working for his boss so that he can continue to live in America. Frank desperately wants to help Diego and asks for your advice on how to deal with the situation. Frank asks if you have any resources you could point him to.

What resources would you give to Frank?

### Conclusions

Victims of human trafficking are often hidden in plain sight. As you have learned, nearly 50 percent of victims in the U.S. encounter a health care professional while in captivity; however, are not recognized. This places pharmacists, technicians and other health care providers in a unique position for identifying victims. The key to victim identification is education on the general warning signs of trafficking victims in both adults and children, and increased awareness of the types of trafficking. As health care professionals, we can help combat human trafficking by knowing how to report and refer victims to the appropriate resources for help.

### Continuing Education Self-Assessment Questions

1. Human trafficking does not exist in the United States.
  - a. True
  - b. False
2. Human trafficking only involves women and children.
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. Which of the following are possible consequences of human trafficking?
  - a. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
  - b. Depression
  - c. Malnutrition
  - d. All of the above
4. Which of the following are venues of human trafficking?
  - a. On the street
  - b. Private homes
  - c. Nail salons
  - d. All of the above
5. This type of human trafficking is the best example of what happens when the victim works in the employer's private home and the individual is forced to work for little or no pay and prohibited from leaving the property either by force (locks and chains) or by threats.
  - a. Debt bondage
  - b. Involuntary servitude
  - c. Sex trafficking
  - d. Child soldiers

6. Which of the following is an example of a “red flag” in the health care setting?
  - a. Victim is often escorted to and from appointments and escort may often talk for the patient
  - b. Presence of branding, scarring or tattoo indicating ownership by someone
  - c. Cash payments
  - d. All of the above
  
7. All victims of human trafficking are immediately eligible for federally funded resources.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
8. Which of the following is a warning sign of human trafficking in children?
  - a. Outside playing with other children
  - b. Regular attendance at school
  - c. Reports they eat apart from other members in their family/home
  - d. Appears shy
  
9. Mary is picking up a prescription and, after striking up a conversation with her, she confides in you that she was recently a victim of human trafficking. What should you do?
  - a. Call 911
  - b. Tell Mary you are very sorry for her unfortunate past, but are thankful she was able to get out of it. Ring up her prescription and thank her for choosing your pharmacy.
  - c. Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.
  - d. Ask her if she has any friends she can call for emotional support.
  
10. Victims of human trafficking will always have signs of physical abuse.
  - a. True
  - b. False

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