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For the Pharmacy Technician

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Lecture 5 - Human Trafficking

Worth 3 credit hours

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Human Trafficking

Human trafficking has become a growing social concern worldwide. Despite efforts to prevent it, human trafficking (human sex, labor and organ exploitation) is an abuse that affects all age groups, genders, and ethnicities. Health professionals, including Pharmacy Technicians are increasingly required to be **aware** of the problem of human trafficking, to **recognize it and to whom to contact in such a case**. Although the laws and law enforcement agencies combat human trafficking, health agencies are increasingly confronted with the demoralizing and crippling effects this abuse has on individuals, whole families and communities.

Identifying a victim of human trafficking has many similarities to recognizing a victim of intimate partner violence. There are certainly clues and signs that should alert the health clinician to the possibility of human trafficking; unfortunately, in some cases, it is difficult to assess in a pharmacy setting when the perpetrator is the one picking up the prescription.

Types of Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking involves transporting someone into a situation of exploitation. This can include forced labor, marriage, prostitution, and organ removal. This kind of exploitation is known by a few different names -- "human trafficking," "trafficking of persons," and "modern slavery."

It is estimated that internationally there are between 20 million and 40 million people in modern slavery today. The United States, along with Mexico and the Philippines, was ranked one of the world's worst places for human trafficking in 2019. In the US, there is no official number of human trafficking victims, but estimates place it in the hundreds of thousands.

Goals and Objectives:

Pharmacy Technician shall:

- Describe the types of human trafficking
- Understand the nature and scope of human trafficking
- Understand the risks that places an individual of being a victim of human trafficking.
- Potential patient signs of human trafficking in the Medical setting.
- Potential patient signs of human trafficking in the Pharmacy setting.
- Understand questions outlined by HHS.
- Developing a Pharmacy Protocol

The definition of trafficking consists of three core elements:

- The **action** of trafficking which means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons
- The **means** of trafficking which includes threat of or use of force, deception, coercion, abuse of power or position of vulnerability
- The **purpose** of trafficking which is always exploitation.

Assessing the full scope of human trafficking is difficult because many cases often go undetected, something the United Nations refers to as “the hidden figure of crime.”

Human trafficking earns global profits of roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers, \$99 billion of which comes from commercial sexual exploitation.

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is a crime when women, men and/or children are forcefully involved in commercial sex acts. In the United States, any minor under the age of 18 engaged in commercial sex acts is automatically considered a victim of sex trafficking under the law. Worldwide, it's estimated that there are 4.5 million victims of sex trafficking. In the US, there is no official number of human trafficking victims, but estimates place it in the hundreds of thousands.

Worldwide, false promises are ways in which traffickers' bait and enslave their victims – both adults and minors. Indigenous populations and those who live in hopeless poverty and lack access to basic services such as education which make them particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking. Primary countries of origin for foreign victims were in Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand, Honduras, Guatemala, India and El Salvador. Americans may also be trafficked within the U.S.(domestic trafficking) or sent to other industrialized states such as the Netherlands, Germany and Japan (international trafficking).

Many times, people from these communities are offered false employment opportunities in major cities. For example, men and boys are sent overseas to work in construction and agriculture but are also forced to perform commercial sex acts. Women and young girls may be offered jobs as models, nannies, waitresses or dancers. Some traffickers operate under the guise of agencies that offer cross-country dating services. However, upon arrival, these individuals are abused, threatened and sold in the sex industry.

Often, traffickers keep victims under their control by saying that they'll be free after they pay their debt. The “debt” is supposedly incurred from the victims' recruitment, transportation, upkeep or even their crude “sale.” Thus, sex trafficking may occur within debt bondage/bonded labor. Victims of sex trafficking may eventually perform other functions, in addition to being forced sex workers. Some traffickers use sex trafficking victims to recruit or transport other victims eliminating the fear of legal action if victim is caught.



Victims may suffer from long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, malnutrition and social ostracism.

Supply and demand have increased through the years partially due to the internet and the ease with which traffickers and customers can discreetly complete a transaction. Traffickers utilize social media, dating sites and online advertisements to market minors and trafficked victims. Ads seemingly posted by a person willingly engaged in the sex trade are often created or monitored by traffickers. Traffickers lie about the victim's age and may even disguise themselves as the person in the ad when communicating with johns via the internet or phone.

In some cases, individuals being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will but more often, people in trafficking situations stay for reasons that are more complicated. Some lack the basic necessities to physically get out - such as transportation or a safe place to live. Some are afraid for their safety. Some have been so effectively manipulated that they do not identify at that point as being under the control of another person.

Today, over half (51.6%) of the criminal human trafficking cases active in the US were sex trafficking cases involving only children. Reports indicate that a large number of child sex trafficking survivors in the US were at one time in the foster care system. The average age a teen enters the sex trade in the US is 12 to 14 years old with victims that are runaway girls who were sexually abused as children.

Vulnerabilities

In general, human traffickers look for points of weakness to exploit. These vulnerabilities can be social, political, financial, or situational, taking many different forms. Here are some examples:

- Family conflict/instability
- Financial stress
- Social isolation
- Homelessness
- Limited English proficiency
- Addictions
- Immigration status
- Unsafe community or living conditions
- Sexual orientation/gender identity
- Rejection by family or community
- History of physical or sexual trauma
- Foster care placement; aging out of the child welfare system
- Cultural background



Signs of Human Sex Trafficking:

- The injury or the illness cannot be explained.
- The explanation cannot logically or factually account for the injury/illness.
- Medical care is sought long after it seems reasonable to have done so.
- There are injuries that suggest intentional harm, i.e., bruises on the face or around the neck, intentional burn marks, puncture wounds, trauma to the genitals.
- Someone who seeks medical attention is accompanied by a friend who insists on always being with that person, and he/she is very controlling, and answers for the individual who is injured or sick; and, the injured or sick party seems hesitant and fearful when the 'friend' is nearby.
- The same person is seen multiple times for the same illnesses or injuries. Examination of their records may show no voluntary follow-up care for these problems and/or no compliance with recommended treatments – both of which require time and money, neither of which the victim possesses.
- The patient is exceptionally fearful and nervous while being questioned and examined.
- The complaints always involve injuries, issues surrounding drug use, or are related to sexual activity.
- The patient's complaint seems as if it was memorized or scripted.
- The patient has no identification.

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. This type of trafficking is often found in industries with large numbers of workers and little regulation, including agriculture, bars, clubs, domestic work, factories, hospitality industry, food service, peddling, and begging rings.

Domestic servitude is the forced employment of someone as a maid or nanny, and victims are often migrant women who come from low-wage communities in their home countries. Domestic workers perform duties such as cleaning, cooking and childcare in their employer's home. They are commonly US citizens, undocumented workers or foreign nationals most commonly holding a visa. \$8 billion dollars is saved annually by private households that employ domestic workers under conditions of forced labor. The most common victims of this type of trafficking are women

Labor trafficking includes situations of debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor. Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many industries.

Common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, factory workers held in inhumane conditions with little to no pay and farm workers (mostly migrants), coerced through violence as they harvest crops.

Human labor trafficking victims make an alarmingly high number of consumer goods and food products, imported to the United States and produced domestically. More often than we realize, elements of forced labor may be present within the supply chain of products we buy or the services we pay for. As economies around the world integrate, it is faster and easier for goods produced with forced labor to enter the global market. In the U.S., labor traffickers exploit and enslave both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens.

In cases of labor trafficking, consumers provide the demand and profit incentive for traffickers. These consumers can include companies that subcontract certain types of services, end-consumers who buy cheap goods produced by trafficking victims, or individuals who use the services of trafficking victims.



Organ Trafficking

While organ trafficking is a form of human trafficking, international initiatives against human trafficking have focused on sex trade and labor trade, paying little attention to the trade in organs.

The transplantation of healthy organs into persons, whose own organs have failed, improves and saves thousands of lives every year. But demand for organs has outstripped supply, creating an underground market for the sale and purchase of human organs for transplantation. Estimates put the worldwide number of commercial illegal transplantations — transplantations that involve payment for the organ — at about 10,000, roughly 10 percent of all transplantations done annually. In most cases, the organ is a kidney, sold by a living person — illegally.



The shortage of organs for transplantation is a persistent worldwide problem: Demand for organs significantly outstrips supply. Consider the following statistics. As of early 2019, 100,791 people were waiting for lifesaving kidney transplants in the United States. Yet in 2019, only 17,107 kidney transplants took place there. That year, 4,761 Americans died while waiting for a kidney transplant.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 10,000 kidneys are traded on the black market worldwide annually, or more than one every hour. On their own, these numbers can be stark; however, when compared to average wait times for organs in developed countries, one can start to better understand the demand being diverted to black markets. In the U.S., the average wait time for a kidney is 3.6 years according to the National Kidney Foundation wait times average 2 to 3 years but could be longer.

Desperate situations of both recipients and donors create an avenue ready for exploitation by international organ trafficking syndicates. Traffickers exploit the desperation of donors to improve the economic situation of themselves and their families, and they exploit the desperation of recipients who may have few other options to improve or prolong their lives. Like other victims of trafficking in persons, those who fall prey to traffickers for the purpose of organ removal may be vulnerable by virtue of poverty, for instance. One factor that is distinct in this form of trafficking in persons is the profile of culprits; while some may live solely from criminal trafficking activities, others may be doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and health care professionals who are involved in legitimate activities when they are not participating in trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal.

Unable to obtain an organ at home, patients from rich countries might choose to travel to developing countries, where they can buy the organ and have it transplanted. In the developing countries, organ brokers lure poor, uneducated individuals into selling their kidney through the promise of financial gain and a better future. Economic need drives most organ sellers, but in some cases, actual coercion is used. Such cross-border form of organ trafficking is known as “transplant tourism.”

Human Trafficking - Potential patient signs in the pharmacy setting

These are **potential** signs, but no conclusive due to other patients may exhibit some of these same signs. But they do give a basic guideline to look at.

1. Patient may exhibit evasive behavior.
2. Presence of an overbearing or controlling companion.
3. Patient may appear fearful, anxious, and submissive.
4. Patient may avoid eye contact.
5. Patient may appear confused or disoriented.
6. Patient may visit pharmacy for medication for multiple sexually transmitted diseases.
7. Patient may pay for Rx and OTC drugs with cash.
8. Patient may have prescriptions routinely lost or stolen.
9. Patient may be in poor health due to unsanitary living conditions.
10. Patient may suffer chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular or respiratory problems due to poor working conditions.
11. Patient may always wear the same clothes
12. Patient may exhibit signs of physical abuse such as broken bones and vague on description on how injuries occurred.
13. Patient may be malnourished with serious dental problems
14. Patient may exhibit mental issues such as anxiety, depression, nervousness, etc.
15. Patient may present prescriptions from different clinics.

Pharmacy - Purchasing sign of Human Trafficking

1. Unusual purchase of bulk amounts of sanitary napkins, tampons, and anything that the victims might need for health care purposes
2. Unusual large orders of condoms at one time
3. Multi-purchases of “Plan B” at one time

Suggested Screening Questions for Patient

As a Pharmacy Technician your insight in evaluating the potentiality of a Human Trafficking person is invaluable in **notifying** your Pharmacist in utilizing the screening questions below. If necessary, the Pharmacist may enlist the help of a more informed staff member who speaks the patient's language and understands the patient's culture, keeping in mind that any questioning should be done confidentially. You should screen interpreters to ensure they do not know the victim or the traffickers and do not otherwise have a conflict of interest.

Before you ask the patient any sensitive questions, try to get the patient alone if they came to you accompanied by someone who could be a trafficker posing as a spouse, other family member or employer. However, when requesting that time alone, you should do so in a manner that does not raise suspicions.

As with domestic violence victims, if you think a patient is a victim of trafficking, you do not want to begin by asking directly if the person has been beaten or held against his/her will. Instead, you want to start at the edges of his/her experience.

The following are sample questions taken from HHS, Health and Human Services; NHTRC, National Human Trafficking Resource Center health care providers can ask in screening an individual to determine if he/she is a potential victim of human trafficking.

- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Have you been physically harmed in any way?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you sleep in a bed, on a cot or on the floor?
- Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on your doors and windows so you cannot get out?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?

- Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?

Conclusion

As mentioned in the CE Human trafficking is not all about sex, there are different types of human trafficking which include labor and organ trafficking.

Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians are among the most accessible health care workers in hospital and community settings, and it's not unusual for them to talk privately with patients. With this in mind, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians who receive training in recognizing human trafficking are better at identifying victims and more likely to report the crime than those not given such training. The Pharmacy Technician role would be to **recognize** a potential victim and the Pharmacists role (or find someone experienced) would be to privately **talk** with the patient and guide them to safety.

The importance and implementation of a Pharmacy Protocol when discovering a potential victim in the Pharmacy setting is important in ensuring potential success in helping this individual in need.



Joe Medina, CPhT, Pharm D. has helped thousands in the passing of the Pharmacy Technician national exam and was the former Program Director of a Pharmacy Technician Program at two community colleges in Colorado. Mr. Medina is a lifetime national advocate for the Pharmacy Technician Profession and well known on a national level through his company Tech Lectures®. Mr. Medina has helped produce several textbooks and co-authored *the "Pharmacy Technician Workbook & Certification Review"* through Morton Publishing and most recently *"The Pharmacy Technician"* through Learning Express Publications in 2018. Mr. Medina also has published over a dozen continuing education articles for national magazines. With fifteen years as a Pharmacy Technician and twenty plus years as a Pharmacist and Technician Educator, Mr. Medina understands the needs of the Pharmacy Technician and the important role they play in interacting with Pharmacists, Medical paraprofessionals and the community in the Pharmacy setting.

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Lecture 5 - Law CE - Human Trafficking**True or False**

- _____ 1. Human trafficking involves not only sex exploitation but also labor and organ exploitation.
- _____ 2. The Pharmacy Technicians role in Human trafficking would be to recognize a potential victim in the Pharmacy setting.
- _____ 3. Human trafficking victims is similar to those of intimate partner violence.
- _____ 4. A potential sign of Human Trafficking would be prescriptions being routinely lost or stolen.
- _____ 5. Victims of human trafficking may suffer from long-lasting physical and psychological trauma.
- _____ 6. The *core elements* of Human trafficking is action, means and purpose.
- _____ 7. The most common victim of domestic servitude is women.
- _____ 8. Some large US companies' sub-contract those who use labor trafficking.
- _____ 9. Before **you** ask the patient any sensitive questions, you need to try to get the patient alone in a matter not to raise suspicions.
- _____ 10. The US wait time for a Kidney transplantation is around 2 years.
- _____ 11. Another way to recognize a victim of human trafficking is to see what purchases are made at the pharmacy.
- _____ 12. We need to recognize the seriousness of Human Trafficking and realize our responsibility in helping those in need.

Submit your answers on the following Link:

<https://form.jotform.com/213295031768155>

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