

## Physical indicators

(if present, proceed to step one):

- Unexplained abdominal pain
- Signs of physical trauma
- Unusual infections such as TB or immunizable diseases
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Several somatic symptoms arising from stress
- Malnutrition, dehydration
- Pregnancies or abortions
- Unusual injuries

## Red flags

(if present, proceed to step one):

- History of running away from home
- Frequently absent from school
- Inconsistent or scripted history
- Discrepancy between the history and clinical presentation
- Unable to give address
- Doesn't know current city
- Late presentation
- Exhibits inappropriate sexual behavior

## Control indicators

(if present, proceed to step one):

- Accompanied by a controlling person
- Controlling person doesn't allow patient to answer
- Person interrupts or corrects the patient
- Patient exhibits fear, nervousness and/or avoids eye contact
- Patient exhibits hyper-vigilance, or subordinate demeanor

# HT

## ASSESSMENT PEDIATRIC

### Step one:

**Follow child abuse protocols** (if patient is over 18, refer to Ascension website for adult HT assessment tool):

- Attend to patient's medical needs and treatment.
- Separate patient from the controlling person, including family members.
- If controlling person refuses to leave, take patient to the bathroom, X-ray or another location.
- If necessary, consider calling Security for assistance.
- Provide patient a comfortable, accommodating and safe area.
- Notify charge nurse of potential HT issue.
- Patient interview should be performed by a trauma-informed social worker, trauma-informed nurse, forensic nurse, or other designated professional.
- Assessor builds rapport and assures patient of confidentiality.

**Important: chart that charge nurse was notified and why.**

### Step two:

**Patient interview questions:**

- What do you like least about living at your house?
- Have you ever felt like you had to run away from your home? Did you? What made you so unhappy?
- If you could change something about your home what would it be?
- Are you afraid of anyone?
- Has anyone touched you in a way which you do not like?
- Has anyone told you that they would hurt you if you didn't do something they wanted you to?
- Has anyone told you that they would hurt you if you didn't keep a secret?
- Has anyone told you they will hurt your family or pets?
- Has anyone tried to get you to touch someone else in a way you did not want to?
- Has anyone told you that you had to do something in order to get food or drink?

**Additional questions for foreign nationals:**

- Were you ever threatened with deportation or jail if you tried to leave your situation?
- Have you or a family member been threatened in any way?
- Has anyone forced you or asked you to do something sexually against your will?

### Step three:

**Answers *yes to any* of the assessment questions:**

- Follow the child abuse protocol and comply with mandatory reporting statutes. Assessor will update Security or local law enforcement regarding security needs.
- If the minor is with a parent or guardian suspected of being a trafficker — and the minor does not want to be removed from their custody — the charge nurse should comply with mandatory reporting.

### Step four:

**Local resource contacts:**

- Consult with the designated professional for your care setting, such as the charge nurse or forensic nurse, to determine whether mandatory reporting is required.
- If mandatory reporting is not required, make sure the patient knows how to get help.
- Local emergency phone number: 911
- National trafficking hotline: 888.373.7888
- Local EMCU (Exploited and Missing Child Unit)
- Local DCF (Dept. of Children and Families)

**For more information, visit [ascension.org/humantrafficking](http://ascension.org/humantrafficking)**

**Important: chart and fill out proper template**