Title: Human Trafficking: What do healthcare providers need to know?

Faculty Name: Mellissa Withers, PhD, MHS, Associate Professor, Keck School of Medicine of USC. Contact Dr. Withers at mwithers@usc.edu.

Summary:

After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with illegal arms dealing as the largest criminal industry in the world, generating \$150 billion a year worldwide. Los Angeles is a hot spot for human trafficking. Often, healthcare providers are among the few people who interact with victims while they are being trafficked. Healthcare providers are in a unique position to intervene because they may be one of the few outsiders that has interaction with a trafficking victim. But this is often a wasted opportunity due to the barriers, such as lack of time, lack of referral systems and protocols, lack of training, unfamiliarity with mandatory reporting laws, unresponsive or fearful patients, and lack of opportunity for patient to be alone with the provider. We will emphasize the role of the healthcare provider in identifying and assisting victims and review strategies and best practices to do this.

Highlights of Presentation:

In this training, we will cover:

- the definition of human trafficking
- personal characteristics that increase vulnerability to human trafficking
- common myths and misconceptions about human trafficking
- how to recognize warning signs of trafficking
- best practices in interacting with possible victims, such as developing procotols, safety and legal concerns, ensuring private visits with patients, appropriate questioning, use of interpreters and where to refer victims
- the importance of using a trauma-informed approach
- additional resources, such as free online trainings, hotline numbers, screening toolkits, etc.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, learners should be better able to:

- 1. Define types of human trafficking
- 2. Explain the role of the healthcare provider in recognizing and responding to trafficking victims and survivor
- 3. Describe how to report cases or suspected cases of human trafficking
- 4. Outline the various types of cultural diversities (gender, age, race, religion, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, socio-economic, etc.) that may relate human trafficking

References, Cultural and Activity Verification/Assessment Questions Available in order to fulfill CE Credits.