



# Hot Topics



The Genesee County Medical Control Authority's

Newsletter for EMS Providers - Also now available on line at [GCMCA.org](http://GCMCA.org)

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## Human Trafficking – What You Can Do to End It

EMS providers see and hear things that many never will, and are trained to address pain and suffering. But sometimes that pain is not physical. Human Trafficking affects tens of thousands of individuals, and with a proper understanding of what to look forward, EMS providers can help in addressing this crisis. Here is a short assessment that can be done if the situation seems to warrant it:

Prior to beginning the survey, build rapport with the patient. Indicate that you routinely ask these questions of adolescents so that you can find out whether or not they may need help, and if so, how you might be able to help them. Emphasize that the child does not have to answer the questions if he/she does not want to.

For each question with a “Yes” answer, follow up with questions about details.

1. Have you ever broken any bones, been knocked unconscious or had any injuries that required stitches? (if yes, “can you tell me about those times? – determine if abuse, peer violence, dating violence, CSEC – commercial sexual exploitation of children)
2. Some kids have a hard time living at home and feel that they need to run away. Have you ever run away from home? (if yes, “have you stayed out all night or longer?” “How many times have you run away?” “How long is the longest time you’ve been gone from home?” “When you were gone, how did you get money for food?” “Where did you stay?”
3. Kids often use drugs or drink alcohol, and different kids use different drugs. Do you use drugs or drink alcohol? (if yes, frequency of use, type of drug/alcohol, reason for using drugs/alcohol – recreation, self-medication)
4. Sometimes kids have run-ins with police. Maybe for running away, for breaking curfew, for shoplifting. Have you ever had any problems with the police? Do you feel comfortable telling me about them?
5. If you have been sexually active in the past, and by that I mean having oral sex, vaginal sex or anal sex, have you had more than 5 partners?
6. Have you ever had any sexually transmitted infections, like gonorrhea, or chlamydia, or trichomonas? (if yes, “did you receive treatment for it?”)

If the answer is yes to two or more, then ask 1) Has a boyfriend, girlfriend, or anyone else ever asked you, or forced you to have sex with another person; 2) Have you ever had to exchange sex for money, food, shelter, or something else?

If you think you have a patient in a human trafficking situation call: **1-888-373-7888**.



## EMS Provider of the Year

We are looking for the best paramedic, EMT, and MFR in Genesee County, and you have an opportunity to nominate that person. There are a lot of great EMS providers in our community, but we are looking to honor three with the 2015 EMS Provider of the Year Award. Each winner will receive a plaque and a special gift. They will be recognized during EMS Week at the GCMCA Advisory Board meeting. If you are interested in nominating someone, please print out the nomination form on our website, fill it out, and return it to us by April 10, 2015.