Screen for possible child commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking

Suggested introduction: “Hello. We often ask teens some questions to find out a little more about what is going on in their lives. It helps us understand more about how we might be able to offer help. Some of the questions are sensitive and may make you feel uncomfortable so it is important to know that you do not have to answer the questions if you don’t want to. If you decide to answer them, it will help us with your evaluation. Answers to some of the questions may be included in your general medical record, but the form, itself, will not. I am generally able to keep what you tell me private (or confidential). There are two exceptions to this. The first is if you tell me there is a threat to your safety or the safety of someone else. The second is if we are required by law to share information in our medical record. Do you understand these exceptions? If not, please ask us and we are happy to explain.”

Give child the questionnaire outside the presence of the accompanying adult if at all possible.

Screening Questions:

1) Have you ever broken any bones, had any cuts that required stitches, or been knocked unconscious? __ No __ Yes

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? __ No __ Yes

3) Kids often use drugs or drink alcohol, and different kids use different drugs. Have you used drugs or alcohol in the last 12 months? __ No __ Yes

4) Sometimes kids have been involved with the police. Maybe for running away, for breaking curfew, for shoplifting. There can be lots of different reasons. Have you ever had any problems with the police? __ No __ Yes

5) If you have had sex before, how many sexual partners have you had?
   __ 0 partners  __ 1-5 partners  __ 6-10 partners  __ >10 partners

6) Have you ever had a sexually transmitted disease (STD), like herpes or gonorrhea or chlamydia or trichomonas?
   __ No  __ Yes

Positive answers to 2 or more questions is considered a positive screen. However, further questioning would be needed to determine whether or not a child is actually a victim. Keep in mind that the ultimate goal of the healthcare provider is not to obtain a disclosure of trafficking, but to determine level of risk so that resources can be offered.

Possible questions to help find out more about level of risk:
Has a boyfriend, a girlfriend or anyone else ever asked you to do something sexual with another person (including oral sex, vaginal sex or anal sex with someone else)?

__ No  __ Yes

Do you feel comfortable telling me about it? _________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Has anyone ever asked you to do some sexual act in public, like dance at a bar or a strip club?

__ No  __ Yes

Do you feel comfortable telling me about it? _________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Sometimes kids are in a position where they really need food, clothing, a place to stay, or they want to buy something for themselves or someone else. But they don’t have money so they have to exchange sex for what they need. Have you ever been faced with a situation like that?

__ No  __ Yes

Do you feel comfortable telling me about it? _________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Has anyone ever asked you to pose in a sexy way for a photo or a video?  __ No  __ Yes

Do you feel comfortable telling me about it? _________________________________

________________________________________________________________________