Violence in Healthcare, Human Trafficking

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While any nurse can encounter a victim of abuse, they are not familiar with the signs of violence or assistance measures. Generally forensic nurses are qualified and can recognize these situations and assist the victim (Chesnay & Anderson, 2019). However, every nurse should be aware of basic information in this regard.

The nurses must know what signs to look for when they their patient seems possible abuse and human trafficking victim. These signs include scratches and bruises, multiple injuries, delay in taking medical help, stress and panic attacks, drug abuse, and mental instability and being repeatedly admitted for the same injuries. The patient or attendant may look nervous and try to leave hospital as soon as they can (Reinvent, 2016). If the nurse finds the patient or attendant suspicious and any of the above-mentioned signs, they must remain calm and tackle this situation vigilantly. Firstly, they should report to physicians, assistant of a physician or nurse practitioner about the situation. Supervisor should also be notified if possible. This will help verify, in case the nurse has misread the situation, or it can help come up with a better plan. If attendant is suspicious and seems to be an abuser, nurse should examine the patient in a room without an attendant. For better assessment of the situation, the nurse should first calm the patient, possibly a victim. Next a comprehensive examination should be carried out. It should be done in the presence of a witness and all findings including statements and body language of patient and suspected abuser, must be documented. They may be required for a legal procedure later. First ensuring security, the nurse should alert the authorities and law enforcement. If the situation turns out to be as suspected, nurse should motivate the patient to take action and seek help (“What Should a Nurse Do If They Suspect a Patient Is a Victim of Abuse?”, 2019).

Nurses can make sure that proper examination is conducted and both psychological and physical issues are addressed to prevent more events like this in future (Byrne, Parsh, & Ghilain, 2017).

# References

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