

# Alabama Care Network SOUTHEAST Medical Management Meeting

May 2023



# AGENDA

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Human Trafficking  
Public Health Emergency Alerts  
Quality Update





# Human Trafficking

Michael J. Ramsey, MD, FAAP

# Human Trafficking v. Human Smuggling

- Trafficking includes slavery-like conditions.
- Trafficking may occur within national borders.
- Smuggling requires crossing of international borders.





# Common Risk Factors

- Recent Migration or Relocation, especially undocumented immigrants
- Substance use, or a caregiver with substance abuse
- Mental Health Concerns
- Unstable living conditions.
- History of Domestic Violence





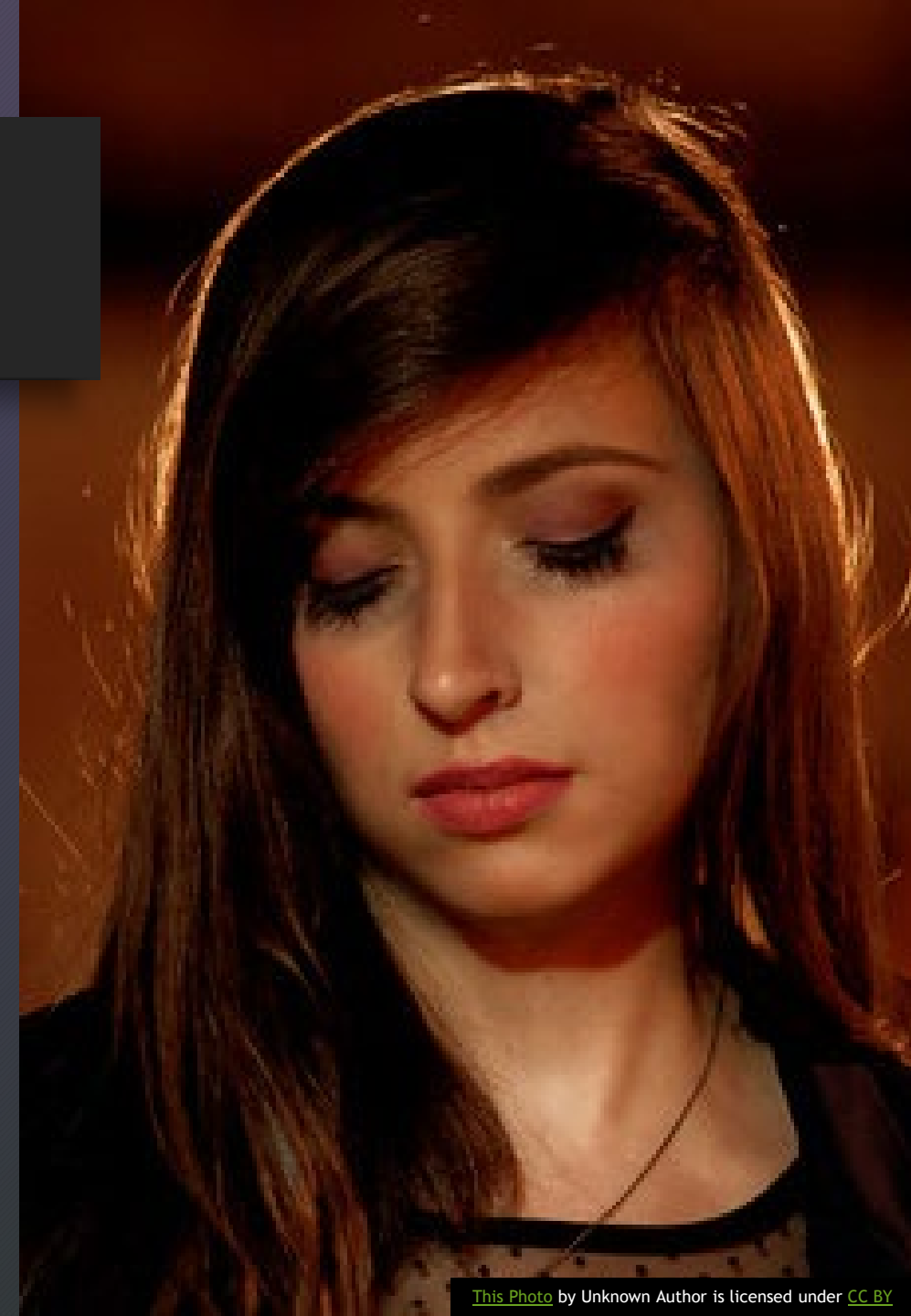
# Common Risk Factors

- Involvement in the child welfare system
- Being a runaway or homeless youth
- History of sexual abuse.
- People of color and LGBTQ+



# Red Flags: General

- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction and/or authority figures.
- Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses.
- Demonstrates fearful or nervous behavior
- Does not have appropriate clothing for the weather or venue
- Resistant to assistance
- Demonstrates hostile behavior





# Red Flags: Front Office

- Is accompanied by an individual who does not let the patient speak for themselves, refuses to let the patient have privacy, or who interprets for them
- Is accompanied by an individual who brings in multiple unrelated persons.
- Living at place of employment
- Is unable to provide address
- Is not aware of location, the current date, or time
- Is not in control of own money
- Is not in possession of identification documents.





# Red Flags: Physical Signs

- Appearing malnourished
- Showing signs of physical injuries or abuse
- Poor physical or dental health
- Tattoos/branding on the neck and/or lower back (“Daddy,” “Property of...,” or “For Sale”)
- Untreated sexually transmitted diseases.





# Red Flags: Communication

- Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses.
- Evidence of controlling or dominating relationships.





# What to do

- Provide the patient with the NHTRC hotline number (888-373-7888) and encourage him/her to call if he/she wants help or wants to talk to someone. If the patient feels it is dangerous to have something with the number written on it you can have them memorize the number.

**NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE**

# Resources in Alabama

- Alabama Attorney General Office of Victim Assistance
  - 501 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130-0152
  - Phone: (334) 242-7342
  - Toll Free: (800) 626-7676
- Alabama Anti Human Trafficking Alliance - State of Alabama ([alabamaalliance.org](http://alabamaalliance.org))
- Family Sunshine Center ([familysunshine.org](http://familysunshine.org))
- The WellHouse ([the-wellhouse.org](http://the-wellhouse.org))
- National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance ([Shelteredalliance.org](http://Shelteredalliance.org))





Alerts

# Public Health Emergency

- Ends May 11
- If Medicaid continues an option that was not available before the PHE, providers will not be notified.
- For example, since Medicaid will continue to allow sick and well-child visits to be reimbursed for the same date of service after the PHE ends, no additional notice will be given.



Meeting Attendance Code

54691

# Recipient Signatures

- Effective May 12, 2023:
- Recipient signatures will be required to be obtained and kept on file as verification that the recipient was present on the date of service for which the provider seeks payment.
- More information can be found in the Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Rule No. 560-X-1-.18 Provider and Recipient Signature Requirements.



# Referral Requirements

- Effective June 1, 2023:
- Medicaid will resume the referral requirements for EPSDT visits. Once the child has an EPSDT screening, all subsequent visits to other providers for further diagnosis or treatment must have a written referral (Form 362) from the EPSDT screening provider.
- An EPSDT referral will be required so that recipients under the age of 21 do not run out of office or hospital visits.
- Please refer to Appendix A - Well-Child Checkup (EPSDT) of the Provider Billing Manual for billing instructions related to EPSDT services.
- Prior Authorization requests for services that required an EPSDT referral prior to the PHE will once again be required. Therefore, those prior authorizations for services requiring an EPSDT referral submitted on or after June 1, 2023 will be required to include a current EPSDT referral with the prior authorization.

# Copayments

- Effective October 1, 2024:
- Copayments will be reinstated for applicable services and recipients.



# Pharmacy Prior Authorization

- Effective June 1, 2023:
- Alabama Medicaid will discontinue the universal prior authorization number (9999999999) to override early refill, maximum units, and mandatory three-month maintenance supply for outpatient pharmacy claims.
- Alabama Medicaid will resume routine edits and criteria requirements for outpatient pharmacy claims. The cumulative daily Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) edit will resume phase down at a future time; prior notice will be provided through a subsequent ALERT.

# Durable Medical Equipment

- Effective June 1:
- Alabama Medicaid will resume routine edits and criteria for Durable Medical Equipment (DME) requests, including:
- Prior Authorization for DME must be received within 30 days after the equipment is dispensed,
  - 30-day extensions will no longer be provided on prior authorizations, and
  - A prescription/order for DME items must be presented to the provider/fiscal agent within 90 days from the date it was written.



# COVID CR (Catastrophe Related) Modifier

- Effective June 1, 2023:
- Providers should no longer bill the CR modifier for COVID-19 related services or equipment.

# Telemedicine

- Discontinued allowances effective May 31:
- Use of the modifier “CR” (catastrophe/disaster related) and place of service “02” on claims
- Interprofessional Telephone/Internet/Electronic Health Record Consultations: CPT codes 99446 - 99449 and 99451 - 99455
- Allowances for Telemedicine during COVID that are not included in the Telemedicine Policy



# Telemedicine

- Medicaid will continue to allow audio-only telecommunications to be reimbursed at parity for dates of services rendered through September 30, 2023. On October 1, 2023, new rates for audio-only telecommunications will be established.
- This audio-only telecommunications method can only be used in lieu of the audio and video telecommunications method where telemedicine services are approved by Medicaid.

# Telemedicine

- New Policy effective June 1:
- [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/4.0\\_Programs/4.1\\_Covered\\_Services.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/4.0_Programs/4.1_Covered_Services.aspx)





## Share Your Thoughts About the ACHN

- General Population (formerly Patient 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GP-ACHN>





# ACHN Contact information

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Referrals - (334) 466-  
4609 - Fax referral form  
or Face Sheet with  
Patient information and  
contact information

# Thank You For Your Time

## Medical Management Meeting Schedule

- All meetings will be via webinar at 12:00 p.m. Central Time
- May 2, 3, 4, 9

