Modern slavery is a global public health concern, yet health professionals are often unaware of what it is, what it looks like, who it affects, and what they can do about it.

WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?
Modern slavery – which is often called and is inclusive of human trafficking – is an umbrella term that includes the recruitment, movement or receiving of men, women and children through deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. It includes sex trafficking, forced labour, forced criminality, domestic servitude and organ harvesting.

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM
- 40.3 million people are in modern slavery across the world
- 10 million children are in modern slavery across the world
- 136,000 people are estimated to be victims of modern slavery in the UK
- Modern slavery is happening in every corner of the world and can include any person, regardless of age, socio-economic background or location

1 in 5 victims report having come into contact with healthcare services during the time they were being trafficked
The first step towards helping victims and preventing modern slavery is to be able to spot it.

Victims might:
- Refuse to give their name or contact information
- Have no access to their identification documents
- Mention they are in debt
- Appear fearful or scared of staff, authorities or a specific individual
- Be in the presence of a controller

Health conditions that victims might suffer from include:
- Headaches, dizziness, or memory loss
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Cuts, bruising, and broken bones
- Weight loss or eating disorders
- Anxiety, depression and/or PTSD

If you are concerned about a patient’s immediate safety ensure that they are safeguarded. If you have any concerns about their situation, always speak to your manager, named doctor or safeguarding leads for advice.

Other resources:
- Modern Slavery Helpline 0800 0121 700
- Download the STOP APP to report an incident & help build the big picture of human trafficking hotspots and trends