

## ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

**Requestor:**

**Requestor Phone:**

**Requestor Email:**

**Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE):** 10 January 2017

**Response Date:** 11 January 2017

**Type of TA Request:** Standard

### Request:

██████████ requested technical assistance in searching for information on general medical triage for refugees.

### Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team conducted a search for resources related to medical triage for refugees. Materials gathered are provided below (listed alphabetically).

Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases and Refugee Health Network of Australia. (2016). [Recommendations for Post-Arrival Health Assessment for People from Refugee-Like Backgrounds](#).

This document outlines the Society's process for screening refugees for various health conditions and includes related recommendations.

Bigot, A., Blok, L., Boelaert, M., et al. (n.d.). [Refugee Health: An Approach to Emergency Situations](#). (Accessed 1/11/2017.) Mediciens sans Frontiers.

The authors list the “ten top priorities” of the emergency phase associated with refugee health, including assessment (beginning on page 43). “Triage” is covered loosely throughout the document.

Bradby, H., Humphris, R., Newall, D., and Phillimore, J. (2015). [Public Health Aspects of Migrant Health: A Review of the Evidence on Health Status for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the European Region](#)

Case Study 2 (found on page 9 of the document) lists promising practices for assessing need and providing primary care for refugees and asylum seekers. Section 3.3 lists related policy implications and options.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). [Guidelines for the U.S. Domestic Medical Examination for Newly Arriving Refugees](#).

The guidelines on this webpage can help clinicians determine which tests to administer to newly arriving refugees. A link to the “Domestic Medical Screening Checklist” is also provided.

Cochrane Library. (2016). [Health of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe](#).

This collection focuses on and includes links to information on the conditions most frequently experienced by refugees and asylum seekers (e.g., certain mental health disorders, skin infections, sexual and physical violence, vaccines-preventable diseases, and tuberculosis).

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. (2015). [Communicable Disease Risks Associated with the Movement of Refugees in Europe during the Winter Season](#).

The authors illustrate trends in migration and list factors associated with health problems, such as limited access to healthcare and poor living conditions.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. (2015). [Expert Opinion on the Public Health Needs of Irregular Migrants, Refugees or Asylum Seekers Across the EU \(European Union\)'s Southern and South-Eastern Borders](#).

Staff from the Centre conducted interviews with experts and reviewed risk assessments and related literature to highlight public health needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants and suggested public health strategies that can be used to address these needs. Findings indicated the need to focus on screening for specific conditions, general hygiene measures, health education/promotion, and the like.

Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. (2016). [Hungary: Assessing Health-System Capacity to Manage Sudden, Large Influxes of Migrants](#).

This document includes lessons learned by Hungarian care providers and beginning on page 14, highlights healthcare service delivery-specific experiences and promising practices in refugee health screening.

International Organization for Migration, Norwegian Refugee Council, and UN Refugee Agency (2015). [Camp Management Toolkit](#).

Chapter 16 of this toolkit focuses on health and hygiene. It includes roles and responsibilities, the elements of a health assessment, and guidelines.

Kulla, M., Josse, F., Stierholz, M., et al. (2015). [Initial Assessment and Treatment of Refugees in the Mediterranean Sea \(a Secondary Data Analysis Concerning the Initial Assessment and Treatment of 2656 Refugees Rescued from Distress at Sea in Support of the EUNAVFOR MED Relief Mission of the EU\)](#). *Scandinavian Journal of Trauma, Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine*. 24(75).

The authors present an analysis of the medical requirements of rescue missions. Figure 1 illustrates the rescue procedure, from transfer from refugee boat to handover of sick people.

Maloney, M., Spink, P., Casey, S., et al. (2013). [Asylum Seeker Health Orientation and Triage Model for Northern and Western Metropolitan Melbourne: Evaluation Report](#).

The authors evaluated more than 800 triage interactions with asylum seekers and discuss lessons learned and recommendations.

World Health Organization. (2015). [Stepping up Action on Refugee and Migrant Health](#).

The World Health Organization emphasizes the following when it comes to the triage and medical screening of refugees (taken directly from the document):

- Migrants and refugees do not pose an additional threat to health security in host communities.
- Screening can be an effective public health instrument but should be non-discriminatory and non-stigmatizing and should benefit both the individual and the public.
- Special attention should be paid to the most vulnerable groups, such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, people with disabilities and victims of torture.
- Health records and health cards must be made portable as a priority.