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).


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


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.


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.

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.


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).


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


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.


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.


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

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.


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


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.