

Priority Topic: IMMIGRANTS

Key Features:

The College's page on Refugee Health Care Resources:

- ✓ http://www.cfpc.ca/Refugee_Health_Care/

Comprehensive (but long) Guideline:

- ✓ [Evidence-based Clinical Guideline for Immigrants & Refugees CMAJ 2011](#)

1. As part of the periodic health assessment of newly arrived immigrants:

- a) [Assess vaccination status](#) (as it may not be up to date).
- b) [Provide the necessary vaccinations](#) to update their status.

- ✓ [Evidence-based Clinical Guideline for Immigrants & Refugees CMAJ 2011](#)
— **it's very long but you can search for specific sections**

2. As part of the ongoing care of immigrants, modify your approach (when possible) as required by their [cultural context](#) (e.g., history given only by husband, may refuse examination by a male physician, language barriers).

What you should study:

- ✓ [Culturally Competent Healthcare Systems 2003](#)
- ✓ [Cultural Sensitivity Checklist 2002](#)

3. When dealing with a [language barrier](#), make an effort to obtain the history with the help of a [medical interpreter](#) and recognize the limitations of all interpreters (e.g., different agendas, lack of medical knowledge, something to hide).

What you should study:

- ✓ [Best Practices for Communicating through an Interpreter](#)
- ✓ [Teaching medical students to use interpreters 2009](#)

4. As part of the ongoing care of all immigrants (particularly those who appear not to be coping):
- a) [Screen for depression](#) (i.e., because they are at higher risk and frequently isolated).
 - b) Inquire about a past [history of abuse or torture](#).
 - c) Assess patients for availability of [resources for support](#) (e.g., family, community organizations).

What you should study:

- ✓ [Trauma-Informed Care Resources Guide](#)

5. In immigrants presenting with a new or ongoing medical condition, consider in the differential diagnosis infectious diseases acquired before immigration (e.g., malaria, parasitic disease, tuberculosis).

What you should study:

- ✓ [Evidence-based Clinical Guideline for Immigrants & Refugees CMAJ 2011](#)
Infectious disease recommendations summarized in Box 1b on page 5 of the document

6. As part of the ongoing care of all immigrants, [inquire](#) about the use of [alternative healers, practices, and/or medications](#) (e.g., “natural” or herbal medicines, spiritual healers, medications from different countries, moxibustion).

What you should study:

- ✓ [Indigenous Health Authority](#)
- ✓ [Does Moxibustion Work? 2010](#)

Remember Peds: [CPS Kids New to Canada](#)

In case you need it: [Immigrant Guideline Appendices](#)

