# 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**