

VISIT 1

(Standard consultation should suffice)

- Introductions (consider engaging an interpreter - see below **)
- Inform patient about the surgery opening times, appointment system, etc.
- Address any **urgent health concerns** and ask patient if they have given any 'Health Undertaking'. The support person may have knowledge of this.
- Explain to the patient that this visit is an introduction and, in the next visit, a more complete medical history will be taken and a physical examination will be done. They may be asked to give blood or other samples for testing.
- Clarify need for contraception/pregnancy test for females of childbearing age.
- Consider commencing catch-up immunisation. Refer to current **The Australian Immunisation Handbook** for full details of the immunisation schedule www.immunise.health.gov.au

For further information about immunisation, contact: **Public and Environmental Health Service (Tasmania)**, Tel. 1800 671 738

** TO BOOK AN INTERPRETER:

The Doctors' Priority Line number is 1300 131 450 (24 hours / 7 days). You will need to get a "User ID" first, which can be obtained by contacting the above number.

The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) is free to any doctor in private practice for a consultation claimable under Medicare. The general enquiries number for TIS is 131 450.

VISIT 2

(Usually needs a long consultation)

- Start immunisation or continue if commenced in Visit 1.
- Obtain full **medical history**

KEY POINTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > General (weight loss, fever) > Skin (rash, scars, wounds) > Neuro (seizures, headache, vision, hearing) > ENT (caries, discharge) > Respiratory (SOB, cough, sputum, haemoptysis - low threshold for referral to TB services) > CVS (chest pain, SOA, palpitations) > GIT (nausea, vomiting, constipation, bloody stool) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > GU (pregnancy, discharge, bleeding, female circumcision) > Musculoskeletal (limp, pain, swelling) > Psycho/social <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (depression, anxiety, nightmares, suicidal ideation, trauma) - Consider the patient may have left family behind > Sexual history > Developmental status (children) |
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- Conduct a thorough **physical examination**

KEY FEATURES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > General appearance (malnutrition, temperature) > Adenopathy > Eyes > Dental > Head and neck (lymph nodes, masses) > Respiratory (cough / sputum production) > Breasts > CVS (murmurs, cardiomegaly) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Abdomen (splenomegaly/ hepatomegaly/herniae) > Pelvis > Extremities (swelling, limp) > CNS (neuropathy) > Skin, scalp (scars, wounds, rashes, fungal infection) > Developmental status (children) > Clinical features of rickets |
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- CONTINUED OVERLEAF



VISIT 2 (CONTINUED)

• Key Investigations

It is recommended that these be carried out by the Refugee and Humanitarian Arrival Clinic (RAHAC) at the Royal Hobart Hospital on referral by a GP (see Key Contacts). They will provide reports with all results to the referring GP. A referral proforma is provided on the division website: www.gpsouth.com.au (Click 'Refugee Health' in the Fast Find Index)

KEY INVESTIGATIONS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Full blood count > Serum electrolytes, liver function tests, calcium and phosphate levels > Vitamin D levels > Serum iron, transferrin and ferritin levels > Hepatitis B surface antigen, surface antibody and core antibody testing (DHHS provides HepB vaccine free of charge to GPs for refugees) > Hepatitis C serology > Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) serology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Syphilis testing (RPR and TPHA) > Strongyloides and schistosomiasis serology > Stool and urine testing for schistosomiasis (rec. if from endemic areas) > Malaria thick and thin blood films and Plasmodium falciparum antigen test > Faecal samples for ova, cysts and parasites x 3 > Mantoux testing and a Chest X-ray—refer to Chest Clinic |
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General Practice South updated this desktop guide from the 2007 version, produced with the assistance of Dr Kelly Shaw and Dr Christine Boyce. To obtain more copies or further information, contact the Division on 6208 7300. This document is available for download from the Division website on: www.gpsouth.com.au

Current at May 2010

Whilst every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this guide is accurate, General Practice South will not accept liability for any injury, loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from any use of or reliance on this information.

Information is based on *Promoting Refugee Health: a guide for doctors and other health care providers caring for people from refugee backgrounds* (2nd edition, 2007) and *Caring for Refugee Patients in General Practice: a desktop guide* (3rd edition, 2007, Tasmania).

To obtain full copies, download from the Foundation House website at www.foundationhouse.org.au or the division website at www.gpsouth.com.au

VISIT 3

Consider use of a 'health assessment for refugees and humanitarian entrants' (Items 701, 703, 705 and 707), General Practice Management Plan and Team Care Arrangements (Items 721 and 723) and Mental Health Plan (Item 2710) as appropriate.

- > Consider *Well Woman* check
- > Pregnancy testing
- > Lifestyle advice - metabolic screening
- > Consider need for Vitamin D supplementation based on levels
- > Begin/continue 'catch-up' immunisations
- > Referrals to other health professionals or services as required (Phoenix Centre, Dental, Optometry, Audiometry, Physiotherapy, etc)

KEY CONTACTS

- > **RAHAC** Tel: 6222 8636 Fax: 6222 8083
- > **Public & Environmental Health Service (DHHS)** Immunisation information - Tel: 1800 671 738
- > **Chest Clinic** (tuberculosis screening) - Tel: 6222 8636 Fax: 6222 8083
- > **DHHS Dental Service** - Tel: 6214 5411 Fax: 6214 5499
- > **Translating and Interpreting Service** (TIS Doctors' Priority Line) - Tel: 1300 131 450
- > **RHH Refugee Migrant Liaison Officer** Tel: 6222 8126
- > **Centacare Early Settlement** - Tel: 6278 1660 Offers initial intensive settlement support for newly arrived refugees.
- > **Migrant Resource Centre** (South) - Tel: 6221 0999 Fax: 6231 1264 Provides a range of support services to migrants.
- > **Phoenix Centre** (South) - Tel: 6221 0999 Fax: 6231 1264 Provides support to people who have fled persecution, torture and war-related trauma.

