

Migrant Health Guide

Health Protection Agency HPA UK 2010- <http://bit.ly/dEFVcw>

“The Migrant Health Guide is intended to be a "one stop shop" for information to support GPs and nurses in assessing and treating migrant patients, in recognition of the fact that these patients sometimes have health needs which are more complex than those of UK born patients.

- There are over 100 countries profiled in the Migrant Health Guide, selected based on their disease epidemiology and UK census ranking. Topic pages on each infectious disease are included to guide practitioners in diagnosis and management according to national guidelines.
- The resource is free to use and practitioners are encouraged to register with the site so that they can be alerted when there are significant changes to the resource of issues that they should be aware of in relation to migrant health.....”

Although the HPA has a primary focus on communicable diseases, the resource has been designed to cover a wide range of health issues. It concentrates on the additional health concerns that should be considered for a migrant patient rather than explicitly covering areas familiar to practitioners from their work with UK born patients.

It is organised into four main sections;

- General information; with information and resources on areas such as language interpretation services, cultural competence and understanding, entitlements to NHS care, spirituality, religion and health beliefs, and vulnerable migrants.
- Countries A-Z; with pages specific to the individual countries of origin of migrants to the UK. Each country has five pages:
 - Country home; including background information, languages, religions and migration history.
 - Children's health
 - Infectious diseases
 - Nutritional/metabolic concerns
 - Women's health
- Health topics; divided into infectious diseases and other health concerns. Where available, patient resources in English and other languages are included on individual topics pages as well as other useful external links.
- Assessing migrant patients; with information and a checklist for assessing the health needs of new migrant patients as well as algorithms for assessing patients with symptoms.

The guide presents information in an easy-to-use format by displaying key messages that the busy practitioner can read quickly in a standard ten minute consultation. Increased levels of information and links to useful resources (e.g. printable patient information leaflets in a range of languages) are also available for those who require these. Much of the information on the resource can be found through searching multiple sources but this is the first time that all this information has been brought together in one place so that practitioners can easily access it when they need it....”

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