Supporting Vulnerable Migrants In Primary Care Across NEYH

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Definitions

Asylum seeker

- *Person who has departed their country of origin and officially applied for asylum in another country but is awaiting a decision on their request for refugee status*

Refugee

- *a person who 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country*

Undocumented migrant

- *Foreign born nationals who do not have the right to remain in the UK*

Pre-migration context

Source: Nudelman&Tasch. Business Insider UK. 2015. Available from: http://uk.businessinsider.com/map-of-europe-refugee-crisis-2015-9

Health Needs

- Communicable diseases
- Incomplete immunisation history
- Non-communicable diseases
- Malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies
- Obesity
- Anaemia
- Musculoskeletal complaints and injuries
- Oral disease
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy
- Female genital mutilation
- **Psychological disturbance**

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migrant-health-guide

Post-migration context

- Long and complex legal immigration process
- New culture and language
- Unable to work
- Poverty
- Poor housing
- Delayed access to education
- Loss of identity and status
- Lack of family and community support
- Integration challenges
- Racism and discrimination
- Risk of exploitation
- Digital exclusion
- Barriers to healthcare
- COVID-19 pandemic

Healthcare contact

- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children: Initial Health Assessment within 28 days of registration with the local authority
- IAC/contingency accommodation – health check
- No official health pathway for other refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants
- GP new patient checks
- Acute situations: be opportunistic and holistic!

Healthcare challenges

- NHS Overseas Visitor Charge
- GP registration
- Language
- Culture
- Digital exclusion
- Provider knowledge & emotional preparedness
- Access to specialist services
- Lack of continuity of care

NHS Entitlements

Universal entitlement

- Primary care
- Accident and emergency (A&E) services
- Diagnostic and treatment services for some communicable diseases (e.g. HIV, TB) and sexually transmitted infections
- Family planning services (not termination)
- Treatment of a physical or mental condition caused by torture, female genital mutilation, domestic or sexual violence
- Palliative care

Charged for NHS services

- Charged for hospital treatment at 150% NHS tariff
  - Refused asylum seekers and their dependents not entitled to s95 or s4 support
  - Undocumented migrants

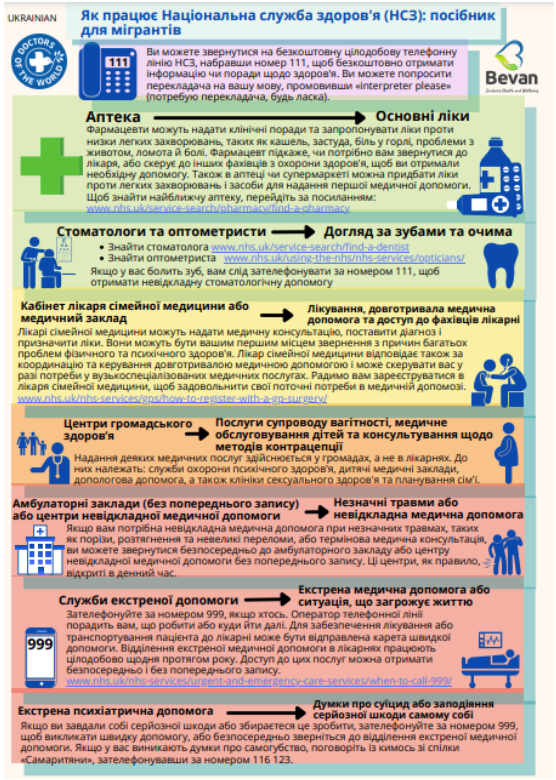
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide

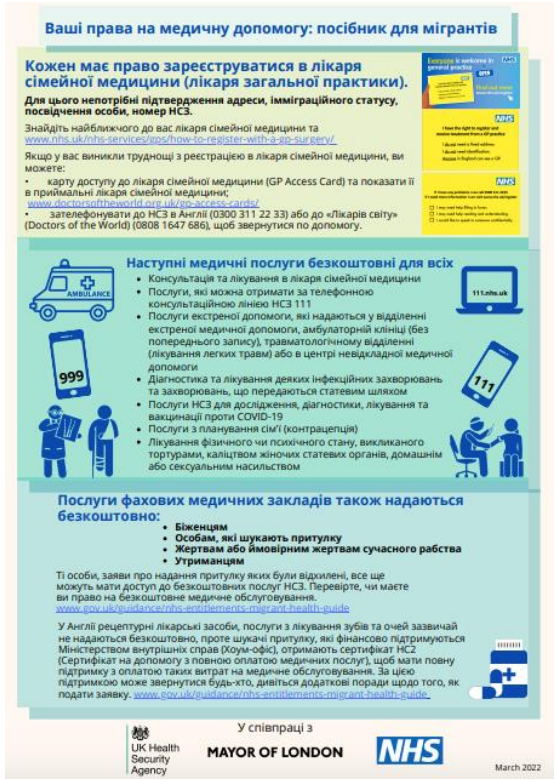
Healthcare challenges

- NHS Overseas Visitor Charge
- GP registration
- Language
- Culture
- Digital exclusion
- Provider knowledge & emotional preparedness
- Access to specialist services
- Lack of continuity of care

Key messages

- Be an inclusive and welcoming primary care practice - DOTW Safe Surgeries
- Always use an interpreter and provide longer appointments
- Provide health information in appropriate format/language
- Be aware of migrant health guidance and NPHC template
- Be opportunistic and holistic





https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/translated-health-information/?_language=

Key messages

- Screening and immunisations
- Consider possible safeguarding risks
- Deliver trauma-informed care
- Directory of local support services to signpost/refer into
- Inform patients of healthcare rights and entitlements
- Be an advocate

Useful resources

- https://www.yhphnetwork.co.uk/links-and-resources/community-of-improvement-resources/migrant-health/ukraine/
- https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migrant-health-guide
- https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/safesurgeries/
- https://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/
- https://migrantinfohub.org.uk/