

9 September 2019

Dear colleagues,

The Settlement Health Co-ordinators have suggested that we provide some background on the Immigrant health clinic at the Royal Children's Hospital. Our clinic sees a wide variety of paediatric patients from refugee and asylum seeker background and we are keen to work with referring teams to manage these patients. Our team includes four consultant staff, 2 fellows, a dental therapist a psychiatrist and mental health nurse.

Essentially, we are happy to see anyone (0-18 years) who requires paediatric review, and based on our clinical experience, we think the following groups always warrant paediatric review (and should be referred):

- Age assessment/clarification of birthdate
- Unaccompanied minors or orphan relative visa holders
- Developmental delay or disability
- Malnutrition - weight/BMI <5<sup>th</sup> centile for age
- Complex medical issues
- Offshore detention, or prolonged Immigration detention

Changes to Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS - which is the program supporting asylum seekers as their immigration status is resolved), mean asylum seeker patients may lose income support, case management and access to services. We are happy to be involved in care for these families and assist in ensuring there is good communication across the care team, and that they are linked with supports.

In addition to clinical services, we are happy to be contacted for general advice or specific queries by email ([refugee.fellow@rch.org.au](mailto:refugee.fellow@rch.org.au)) or directly (pager 7142, via the Royal Children's Hospital switchboard phone 9345 5522). Our departmental website (<https://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/>) also has clinical guidelines and other information on paediatric refugee and asylum seeker health.

Sincerely

**The Immigrant Health Team:**

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Ingrid, Maz (Fellows - 2019)

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