

Thank you for your recent referrals and work in refugee screening. We are seeing variation in tests completed, and hoping to ensure screening is consistent with the new ASID refugee guidelines.

The following tests are recommended for children arriving in Australia as refugees/asylum seekers:

- **FBE/film**
- **Ferritin**
- **Hepatitis B serology** - HBsAg, HBsAb and HBcAb
- **Strongyloides** serology
- **Tuberculosis screening** - tuberculin skin test (TST) or IGRA. TST preferred if <5 years.
- **Faecal specimen** - OCP
- **Vitamin D, calcium, phosphate, ALP** - if risk factors
- **Varicella serology** (age 14 years and older to determine vaccination)
- **Schistosoma** serology - endemic - Africa, Burma, Iraq and Syria - *not other Middle Eastern or Asian countries*
- **Malaria** arrival <3m endemic area (<12m if fever) - Africa (except Egypt), Burma, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka- *not Middle East*
- **Hepatitis C** - HCVAbs - endemic - Congo, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, consider in Syrians - *not other African/Middle Eastern or Asian countries*
- **HIV** serology (15 years and older, all unaccompanied/separated children, clinical concerns - any age)
- **STI screening** (HIV, syphilis, urine NAAT chlamydia/gonorrhoea, consider rectal/throat swabs, also Hepatitis B) if risk factors
- **Syphilis serology** - all unaccompanied/separated children, where parent has evidence of syphilis, if risk factors (see STI screening above)
- **Nutrition screening, including B12** if low weight for age, poor food access, vegan
- **TFT/blood lead** if developmental issues
- **Helicobacter pylori faecal antigen** if upper gastrointestinal symptoms
- **Others** - based on clinical findings as needed

These guidelines are summarised on our website - we would be grateful for suggestions/feedback - http://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/clinical/Initial_assessment/

We look forward to working together; we are always happy to take questions, provide vaccination plans, or visit your practice (if that is useful) and can be contacted on 9345 5522 pager 7142 or email: refugee.fellow@rch.org.au.

RCH Immigrant Health team
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