

UKRAINE REFUGEES

SUMMARY OF RECOMMANDATIONS

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By the reference group on migrant health and PIGS

The full recommendations **Paediatric Refugees from Ukraine: Guidance for health care providers in Switzerland** is published on the webpage of paediatrics switzerland.

- Assess needs for an **interpreter**, and inform any volunteer interpreters about confidentiality and ensure the patient/family can speak freely.
- Identify **urgent health needs**
 - **Acute disease / chronic disease needing urgent treatment / interruption of medication** etc. and exclude any need for isolation or protection.
- Take a **personal history** also including:
 - Chronic diseases/ known health problems, previous curative and preventive care and advice received,
 - **Transit, arrival date, current situation** in Switzerland (accommodation, feeling safe?, schooling, child care, financial situation, family situation, social interactions, recreation, resources).
 - Evaluate needs of the **main care-givers** (health/stability/emotional availability/support in childcare needs)
- **Perform a thorough age-appropriate check-up** as recommended by the Checklist of paediatrics switzerland
- Evaluate **mental health** needs and search for signs of **psychological distress**
 - *Avoid going into traumatic details.*
 - Search for: e.g., sleep disorders, nightmares, behaviour changes, hypervigilance, bedwetting, anxiety attacks, mutism, depression... and ensure patient/family feel safe.
 - Evaluate needs of child/adolescents/parents/caregivers for mental health support/ specialized care.
- **Ensure age-appropriate vaccination coverage:**

A picture and translation of a vaccination chart is available on the webpage of Paediatrics Switzerland <https://www.paediatrieschweiz.ch/unterlagen/migration/>

 - Usually only documented vaccinations should be considered.
 - Ensure vaccination according to Swiss standards.
 - *Include poliomyelitis vaccines (IPV) in all indicated DTPa/dTpa booster vaccinations, including those for adolescents.*
 - The second dose of *measles* vaccination is only given at age 6 years in Ukraine: young children are likely to need it.

- 3 doses of Hepatitis B (day of birth, 2 months, 6 months) can be accepted.
 - Anti-tetanus toxin antibody levels may be determined 4 weeks after a single dose of a tetanus toxoid-containing age appropriate combined vaccine (include Polio), to determine needs of further catch-up vaccination.
 - Consider varicella vaccination for children (no previous history) < 11 years with a prolonged stay in a refugee center.
- **Screening:**
 - **Tuberculosis:** should be offered to all (without urgency, unless exposure/symptoms).
 - **HIV:** serology should be offered to all, especially in i) the absence of a reliable negative HIV test in the mother during pregnancy or/and ii) in the presence of potential exposure / risk factors (also see text)
 - **Hepatitis C:** serology should be offered to all.
 - **Hepatitis B:** serology should be offered in the absence of Hepatitis B vaccination received.
 - **Guthrie:** Newborn screening may be considered for infants ≤ 6 months born in Ukraine, independent of previous screening in Ukraine.
- Give age appropriate preventive **information**, inform about health services and cost coverage and where to go in case of an emergency (incl. emergency number 144 for vital emergencies).
 - Provide the main caregiver with **documentation** of consultations, vaccines received, lab or examination results, etc. – ideally in electronic and paper form.