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## Vermont Refugee Domestic Health Assessment

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### Authority to provide medical screening:

The domestic medical screening program was established as part of the Refugee Act of 1980. All refugees should receive this comprehensive medical examination that screens for a wide range of infectious diseases and non-communicable conditions.

Under 45 CFR 400.107, States are authorized to provide medical screening to refugees in accordance with requirements prescribed by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). In 1995, ORR issued State Letter #95-37, *Medical Screening Protocol for Newly Arriving Refugees*. In 2013, ORR issued [State Letter #12-09, revised Medical Screening Guidelines for Newly Arriving Refugees](#) and corresponding reimbursement rates.

The Governor has designated the Agency of Human Services (AHS) as the state agency responsible for developing and administering the Refugee Resettlement Program (Refugee Act of 1980) in the State of Vermont [§400.5(d)].

### Purpose

ORR holds that the purposes for medical screening are as follows:

1. To ensure follow-up with medical issues identified in an overseas medical screening;
2. To identify persons with communicable diseases of potential public health importance;
3. To enable a refugee to successfully resettle by identifying personal health conditions that, if left unidentified, could adversely impact his or her ability to resettle; and
4. To refer refugees to primary care providers for ongoing health care.

### Administration of services

Medical screenings should be provided:

- Using the October 2022 Vermont Domestic Health Assessment form
- Only by health care professionals who have received training from the Vermont Refugee Health Coordinator and Refugee Health Program.
- By a licensed health care provider, such as a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.
- In a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Contact the Vermont Refugee Health Coordinator for assistance and resources related to translation and interpretation services and guidance on cultural and health considerations.

### Eligibility

Individuals in Vermont holding one of the following federal immigration status categories are eligible to receive federally funded refugee medical screening:

- Paroled as **refugees or asylees** under § 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)
- **Refugees** admitted under § 207 of the INA
- **Asylees** whose status was granted under § 208 of the INA
- **Cuban and Haitian entrants**, in accordance with the requirements in 45 CFR § 401.2
- **Certain Amerasians** from Vietnam
- **Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders**
- **Afghan SI/SQ Parolees, Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents**
- **Afghan Humanitarian Parolees**
- **Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees** *\*That have arrived before 10/1/2023\**
- Victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons per the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000

Available documentation is usually, but not always, an I-94 card (issued by the United State Citizenship and Immigration Services).

### Review of overseas medical records

A review of overseas medical records should include review of the following Department of State (DS) forms:

- DS-2053 or DS-2054, *Medical Examination for Immigrant or Refugee Applicant*
- DS-3024 or DS-3030, *Chest X-Ray and Classification Worksheet*
- DS-3025, *Vaccination Documentation Worksheet*
- DS-3026, *Medical History of Physical Examination Worksheet*
- The history should also include a review of the UNHCR Medical Assessment Form (MAF), the International Organization for Migration's Significant Medical Conditions (SMC) form and Pre-Departure Medical Screening (PDMS) form, immunization records and other individually carried documents.

### Screening guidance and resources

Screening guidance and recommendations are constantly updated. Be sure to review the most up to date guidance to best inform medical screenings:

- [Refugee Domestic Screening Guidance: Key Considerations and Best Practices | Immigrant and Refugee Health | CDC](#)
- [CareRef](#): Recommends screening tests and other preventive care to be included in the medical screening based on demographic and geographic factors that contribute to risk for a particular individual.
- [RHS-15](#): Mental Health Screening for adults
- [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) recommended vaccine schedules.
- [Refugee Health Webinar Series](#), Vermont Medical Society: Deeper dive into elements of the medical screening as well as introduction to culturally and linguistically appropriate health care.

### Billing and reimbursement

Most new arrivals to Vermont will be eligible for Medicaid health insurance coverage. The domestic health assessment and provision of any necessary interpretation services are reimbursable through Vermont Medicaid billing. Refer to the [Vermont Medicaid General Billing and Forms Manual](#) for updated guidance. For more information on appropriate coding, contact your regional Gainwell representative: [Gainwell Provider Representative Coverage Map](#)

### Contact Information

Contact the Refugee Health Program for additional information, support, or resources. Allie Perline, Program Coordinator, can be reached at [Allison.Perline@vermont.gov](mailto:Allison.Perline@vermont.gov).