

Providing Tools for Clinicians to Better Support Immigrant Health

Statement of Problem

More than [1 million immigrants](#) arrive in the U.S. each year. These newcomers are dispersed all across the country and are often sent to primary care providers and public health clinics that do not have expertise in newcomer health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [created guidance](#) for providers that includes recommended screenings based on the age, sex, and country of origin of newcomers, but this guidance can be challenging for providers to enact in their clinical practice due to time constraints and limitations of electronic health records (EHR). This often means that newcomers are not receiving the evidence-based care they need in order to lead a healthy life. We know that when caregivers receive support to meet their needs, it positively impacts their child's well-being. Therefore, it's essential that we take the necessary steps to improve the health of newcomer caregivers and their children.

Description

With input from other newcomer health providers through the [Minnesota Center of Excellence in Newcomer Health](#), our team [created a set of tools](#) to help clinicians make evidence-based, guidance-directed standardized care decisions when treating newcomer patients that also provides flexibility for local workflows.

This [suite of clinical decision support tools](#) is designed to embed in EHR systems and provide clinicians with up-to-date [CDC guidance](#) and [CareRef](#) recommendations, using order sets and associated documentation templates. This intervention has been in production at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia since 2017 and other institutions since 2019.

We revised this tool in 2020 to align with updated CDC guidance and decrease installation time to meet the resource requirements of other health care systems. Based on recent feedback from clinical and informatics teams, installation is estimated to require 10 hours of analyst time.

Next Steps

Our team will continue to update and revise these tools to ensure alignment with changes to CDC guidance. We are also providing guidance and support to clinicians who would like this tool installed into their health care system's EHR.

We hope that these tools will help clinicians caring for newcomers to more easily implement CDC guidance and other best practices in their daily work to provide newcomers with the opportunity to live a healthy life not only for themselves, but also for their children.

If you would like to review the build instructions for this tool or see a demonstration video, please reach out to refugee.cds@email.chop.edu.

This project page was last updated in December 2020.

Suggested Citation

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PolicyLab. *Providing Tools for Clinicians to Better Support Immigrant Health* [Online]. Available at: <http://www.policylab.chop.edu> [Accessed: plug in date accessed here].

PolicyLab Leads

Katherine Yun MD, MHS

Faculty Member

Katherine Yun's primary interest is refugee and immigrant health, specifically the well-being of children in immigrant families in the United States. Her work has focused on the prevalence of chronic, non-communicable conditions and insurance coverage among refugees in the US, differences in primary and dental care utilization by children in different types of immigrant families, and evaluation of health care navigation and related programs for refugee communities. Current projects seek to address language barriers in behavioral health care and blunt the impact of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) on refugees and migrants.

Dr. Yun received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 2006 and completed her residency in pediatrics at Yale University in 2009. Between 2009-2011, she was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar and earned her Masters in Health Sciences Research from the Yale University School of Medicine. While at Yale, she was the supervising physician in the Yale-New Haven Hospital Pediatric Refugee Clinic, a co-recipient of Connecticut's Myra M. Oliver Award for going "above the call of duty" to support refugees and immigrants. CHOP's Refugee Health Program, led by Dr. Mary Fabio, is a recipient of the Gold Door Award from [HIAS-PA](#), "Honoring those who lead the way in support of immigrants and refugees."

Dr. Yun has also worked in Europe, where she supported research on the health impact of human trafficking, and Central Asia, where she taught middle school. From 2014-2018, Dr. Yun served on the Executive Committee of the Section on International Child Health at the American Academy of Pediatrics. She currently serves on the [Research, Evaluation, and Ethics Committee](#) for the Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers. Dr. Yun and her husband live in Philadelphia, PA.



Katherine Yun
MD, MHS

Email: YunK@chop.edu

Team

Jeremy Michel, MD, MHS

Janine Young, MD

Funders of Project

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Excellence in Refugee Health (NU50CK000459)

Project Contact

Katherine Yun

YUNK@EMAIL.CHOP.EDU

Related Tools & Publications

-

[Refugee Health Care in the United States](#)

[Webinars](#)

Apr 2018

-

[Overcoming Language Barriers in Mental and Behavioral Health Care for Children and Adolescents—Policies and Priorities](#)

[Article](#)

Apr 2019

-

[Translating Discharge Instructions for Limited English-proficient Families: Strategies and Barriers](#)

[Article](#)

Oct 2019

-

[Caring for Children in Immigrant Families: Are U.S. Pediatricians Prepared?](#)

[Article](#)

Nov 2019

-

[Hepatitis B Evaluation and Linkage to Care for Newly Arrived Refugees: A Multisite Quality Improvement Initiative](#)

[Article](#)

Jul 2020