CDC Role in Overseas Refugee Processing

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Mission
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ)

- Prevent importation, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries into the United States
  - Statutory responsibility to make/enforce regulations

- Promote health and decrease morbidity and mortality among globally mobile populations entering the United States
  - Immigrants and refugees
DGMQ Regulatory Responsibilities for Immigrants and Refugees

**Overseas**
- Write Technical Instructions
- Monitor and assure quality of overseas medical examination

**U.S. Ports of Entry**
- DGMQ Quarantine Stations—collect overseas medical forms

**United States**
- Electronic Disease Notification System (EDN)
  - Notify states of refugee arrivals
  - Notify states of immigrant and refugee Class A and TB conditions

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**Overseas Medical Screening Exams for Immigrants and Refugees**

- DGMQ writes the Technical Instructions for Examinations
- Department of State appoints panel physicians
- Panel physicians perform examinations
- Over 650 panel physician sites worldwide
### Medical Classifications

**Class A**
- Inadmissible
- Treatment or waiver required for admission

**Class B**
- Admissible
- Substantial departure from normal health
- Stateside notifications for TB

### Class A Conditions Screened During Immigrant Medical Examination

**INADMISSIBLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES OF PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE****
- Tuberculosis, active
- Syphilis, untreated
- Chancroid, untreated
- Gonorrhea, untreated
- Granuloma Inguinale, untreated
- Lymphogranuloma Venereum, untreated
- Hansen’s disease (Leprosy)

**MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
- Mental Disorders with associated harmful behavior (including alcohol abuse)
- Substance Abuse

*HIV removed from inadmissible conditions list Jan 2010*
CDC’s Overseas Public Health Support

- Review all refugee urgent medical cases resettling to the US
- Pre-departure protocol development
- Outbreak recommendations for resettling refugees
  - Movement holds based on disease
- Follow up of outbreaks identified domestically
  - Lead, B12 deficiency

TB Technical Instructions (TI)
CDC revised TB TI in 2007

- Three sputum cultures required for applicants with abnormal chest radiographs
- Directly observed therapy (DOT) according to ATS/CDC/IDSA guidelines for smear or culture-positive applicants
- Drug susceptibility testing (DST) on positive cultures

TB Cases, United States, 1993-2008

TB rate: 4.2 per 100,000
Implementation of the 2007 TB TI: Current Status

- Current Status
  - 30 countries
  - 60% of immigrants
  - Majority of refugees

2007 TB TI Implementation
- Panel Sites
- Refugees Only
- All applicants
Domestic Refugee Medical Screening Guidelines

• Currently ten guidelines are available
  – General Guidelines
  – Guidelines for the History and Physical
  – HIV Infection Screening Guidelines
  – Tuberculosis Guidelines
  – Mental Health Screening Guidelines
  – Immunizations Guidelines
  – Lead Screening Guidelines
  – Malaria Guidelines
  – Intestinal Parasite Guidelines
  – Sexually Transmitted Diseases Guidelines

Thank You

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