SYLLABUS

Migrant Health

4th edition · 2027 · Travel Medicine and Health in Mobile Populations training program

Key information

Dates: 19 Apr – 21 May 2027 (Monday 19 April to Friday 21 May)

Student dedication: 100 hours (5 weeks · approx. 20 h/week)

Credits: 4 ECTS

Modality: Online · asynchronous (Own pace, following the learning itinerary milestones and assessment deadlines)

Team

Course Director: Natalia Rodríguez Valero

Course Coordinator & Facilitator: Pedro Laynez Roldán

Faculty: Natalia Rodríguez Valero, Pedro Laynez Roldán, José Muñoz Gutiérrez, Daniel Camprubí Ferrer, Alex Almuedo Riera, Alba María Antequera, Izar Blázquez, Elena Sendra

Content contributors: Inés Iglesias Rodríguez, Clara Bares, Daniel Nomah, Clara Peña, Adriana Kaplan, Leonardo de la Torre, Anna Gamell, Paula Beitia, Raphael Nepomuceno

Instructional design & support: Education & Training Team, ISGlobal

About the course

Description: The course provides learning opportunities on key topics necessary for addressing the needs of migrants, combining a clinical approach with a broader social perspective.

Learning objective: The main objective of this course is to train students to implement the diagnostic and management recommendations for the main clinical presentations in migrants and refugees, as well as to carry out individualized screening for imported infections, all with an intercultural approach.

Evaluation

The final grade will take into account participation in forums, completion of interactive materials, and the end-of-course assessment. It will be calculated as follows:

- **15%** **Forum participation**: at least 3 contributions required
- **25%** **Interactive materials**: completion of interactive materials
- **60%** **End-of-course assessment**

Resit: Students who do not achieve a passing grade on the end-of-course assessment will have the chance to complete an alternative activity. The resit must be completed and delivered within a maximum of two weeks (guidelines and terms will be specified by the course coordinators).

Course organisation

The sessions are organised as follows:

Key course information and resources

- Video: How to use the virtual platform

- Teacher's speaker
- Discussions
- Key dates
- Syllabus
- Main resources

1. Before migration and cultural considerations

Specific learning objectives:

- *Understand the differences between migrant, refugee and asylum seeker*
- *Learn about the main migratory routes*
- *Identify the impact of the social determinants of health in every stage of the migration process, including the stay in the host country*
- *Acquire cognitive, affective and behavioral skills to conduct the clinical approach of people from other cultures*
- *Learn how cultural mediators can improve communication and trust between healthcare providers and patients from diverse backgrounds*

Learning materials:

- **Interactive lesson:** Reflections on the basic concepts of migrant health
- **Video pill:** Introduction to Migrant Health [Alex Almuedo]
- **Key resource:** World migration report: interactive data link
- **Key resource:** What happens when people are forced to flee? Summary of the situation of some of the countries in conflict
- **Key resource:** Missing Migrants Project
- **Interactive lesson:** Social determinants and cultural competence
- **Key resource:** Migration: a social determinant of the health of migrants

2. Travel and transit: risks and assessment

Specific learning objectives:

- *Recognize the health challenges faced by migrants during their journeys and upon arrival*
- *Identify the Mediterranean Sea route and refugee camps as critical focal points*
- *Understand the perils of sea migration routes, including overcrowded and unsafe boat travel*
- *Recognize the issues of overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, and lack of healthcare facilities in refugee camps*
- *Understand the need for coordinated efforts in disease prevention, primary healthcare services, and support for mental and reproductive health*

Learning materials:

- **Interactive lesson:** Mediterranean & Atlantic route
- **Video pill:** The migrant boat crisis on the Canarian route [Clara Peña]
- **Key resources:** Health considerations upon first arrival
- **Interactive lesson:** Health in refugee camps
- **Video pill:** Health in the refugee camps [Raphael Nepomuceno]

- **Key resource:** Refugee camps explained

3. Settlement (general approach)

3.1 Screening and health recommendations

Specific learning objectives:

- *Recognize the most important screenings in migrant populations, including infectious diseases, chronic illnesses, and mental health concerns*
- *Evaluate the immunization records of migrants to identify gaps in vaccination*
- *Prioritize which vaccines are most critical based on age, health status, and country of origin*
- *Recognize the most important strategies to improve the inclusion of migrants in the screening programs*

Learning materials:

- **Interactive lesson:** Screening recommendations for migrant population
- **Video pill:** Screening of HIV [Daniel Nomah]
- **Video pill:** Screening of T. cruzi [Inés Iglesias]
- **Video pill:** Screening for the recently arrived child [Anna Gamell]
- **Lecture notes:** Screening of infectious diseases in migrants
- **Video lesson #1:** Management of migrant patients: a multidimensional case approach

3.2 Non-communicable diseases (NCD)

Specific learning objectives:

- *Understand the prevalence and impact of diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer among migrant populations, and recognize the barriers to accessing care*
- *Identify how ethnic backgrounds influence health parameters and normal standards*
- *Recognize the health risks associated with sexual exploitation and FGM among migrants*
- *Identify common mental health issues such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety among migrants and refugees, and understand the barriers to accessing mental health care*

Learning materials:

- **Interactive lesson:** NCD & gender violence
- **Video pill:** NCDs in migrants and refugees [Daniel Nomah]
- **Video:** A real case of NCDs affecting a migrant person [Daniel Nomah]
- **Key resource:** Merz LE, Achebe M. When non-Whiteness becomes a condition. Blood. 2021 Jan 7;137(1):13-15. doi: 10.1182/blood.2020008600. PMID: 33181819.
- **Video pill:** An expert vision on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting [Adriana Kaplan]
- **Interactive lesson:** Sexual, reproductive & mental health
- **Video pill:** Mental health in migrants and refugees [Paula Beitia]
- **Key resource:** Five key themes for improved mental health care for refugees and migrants (WHO)

4. Settlement (specific management)

4.1 Trypanosoma cruzi infection in non-endemic settings

Specific learning objectives:

- *Understand the global distribution and prevalence of Trypanosoma cruzi infection*
- *Identify the barriers that affect the access to healthcare and resources for migrant populations affected by Trypanosoma cruzi infection*
- *Identify the acute and chronic clinical manifestations of Chagas disease, including cardiac and gastrointestinal complications*
- *Learn the screening and diagnostic techniques for Trypanosoma cruzi infection according to the phase of the infection*
- *Learn about the pharmacological treatments available for Trypanosoma cruzi infection and their appropriate use*
- *Understand the importance of follow-up care and monitoring to manage chronic complications*
- *Develop culturally sensitive approaches to health education and intervention programs*

Learning materials:

- **Video:** Circular migration and social intervention in Chagas disease [Leonardo de la Torre]
- **Interactive lesson:** The multidimensionality of T. cruzi infection
- **Interactive lesson:** T. cruzi: diagnosis & management
- **Lecture notes:** Management of Trypanosoma cruzi infection in non-endemic settings
- **Video lesson #2:** Dealing with the limited evidence on T. cruzi management, and other challenging cases on migrant health

4.2 Helminth infections in migrant populations

Specific learning objectives:

- *Understand the global distribution and prevalence of helminth infections, particularly in migrant populations*
- *Identify the most common helminth infections affecting migrants*
- *Recognize the clinical manifestations and complications associated with helminth infections*
- *Assess the long-term health impacts of chronic helminth infections on migrant populations*
- *Implement effective screening protocols tailored to the specific health risks of migrant populations*
- *Learn about the pharmacological treatments available for helminth infections and their appropriate use*

Learning materials:

- **Interactive lesson:** Management of common helminth infections
- **Interactive lesson:** Clinical cases of helminth infections
- **Key resource:** A practical classification of helminths for clinicians
- **Key resources:** Main chronic helminthiases in migrants: clinical keys
- **Video pill:** Expert insights: resolving clinical questions on helminthiasis [José Muñoz]

4.3 Basics of eosinophilia

Specific learning objectives:

- *Familiarize yourself with the management of eosinophilia and its main causes in the migrant population*
- *Understand the rationale behind prescribing empirical treatment for patients with unexplained eosinophilia*
- *Identify common liver parasites affecting migrants, their clinical presentation, diagnostic tools and treatment*

Learning materials:

- **Interactive lesson:** About eosinophilia

- **Lecture notes:** Management of imported eosinophilia
- **Interactive lesson:** Management of imported liver parasites
- **Key resource:** Main liver parasites: clinical keys
- **Key resource:** Echinococcosis. Treatment recommendations by stage

5. Return

Specific learning objectives:

- *Recognize returning home as part of the migration process and the main health problems associated*
- *Learn the difference between visiting friends and relatives and other returning journeys*
- *Learn the main health problems during Hajj and Umrah pilgrimage*

Learning materials:

- **Interactive lesson:** Return and pilgrimage
- **Key resource:** Special travel groups: VFR (pre-travel advice)
- **Key resource:** Health requirements and recommendations for travelers to Saudi Arabia for Hajj – 1445H (2024)

Additional resources

1. Greenaway C, Castelli F. Infectious diseases at different stages of migration: an expert review. J Travel Med. 2019 Feb 1;26(2):taz007. doi: 10.1093/jtm/taz007. PMID: 30726941.
2. de la Rosa Fernández E, Llansó Florentí P, Laynez Roldán P, Garrido Rios S, González Rodríguez J, Benítez García E, et al. The Reality of Migration by Patera Boats: Morbidity and Dermatological Injuries. Actas Dermosifiliogr. 2025;116:T1057-T1065.
3. Atención Primaria Gerencia de Gran Canaria, et al. Atención Sanitaria a Migrantes Recién Llegados a Gran Canaria en situación irregular por vía marítima [internal document]. 2022.
4. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Public health guidance on screening and vaccination for infectious diseases in newly arrived migrants within the EU/EEA. Stockholm: ECDC; 2018.
5. Hernando V, Alvárez-del Arco D, Alejos B, Monge S, Amato-Gauci AJ, Noori T, Pharris A, del Amo J. HIV infection in migrant populations in the European Union and European Economic Area in 2007–2012. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2015;70(2):204-211. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000000717
6. Dias JCP, Ramos AN, Gontijo ED, Luquetti A, Shikanai-Yasuda MA, Coura JR, et al. 2nd Brazilian Consensus on Chagas disease, 2015. Rev Soc Bras Med Trop. 2016;49:3–60. doi: 10.1590/0037-8682-0505-2016
7. Rassi Jr A, Marin-Neto A. Chagas disease. Lancet. 2010;375:1388–402. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(10)60061-X
8. Nunes MCP, Beaton A, Acquatella H, Bern C, Bolger AF, Echeverría LE, et al. Chagas cardiomyopathy: an update of current clinical knowledge and management: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association. Circulation. 2018. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000599
9. Pinazo MJ, et al. Benznidazole-related adverse drug reactions and their relationship to serum drug concentrations in patients with chronic Chagas disease. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2013;57(1):390-5. doi: 10.1128/AAC.01401-12.
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11. Colley DG, Bustinduy AL, Secor WE, King CH. Human schistosomiasis. Lancet. 2014;383(9936):2253-64. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(13)61949-2. PMID: 24698483.
12. Prickett KA, Ferringer TC. Helminths: a clinical review and update. Semin Cutan Med Surg. 2014;33(3):128-32. doi: 10.12788/j.sder.0108. PMID: 25577852.

13. Prieto-Pérez L, Pérez-Tanoira R, Cabello-Úbeda A, Petkova-Saiz E, Górgolas-Hernández-Mora M. Geohelmintos [Geohelminths]. Enferm Infecc Microbiol Clin. 2016;34(6):384-9. doi: 10.1016/j.eimc.2016.02.002. PMID: 26980233
14. White Jr AC, Coyle CM, Rajshekhar V, Singh G, Hauser WA, Mohanty A, et al. Diagnosis and treatment of neurocysticercosis: 2017 clinical practice guidelines by IDSA and ASTMH. Clin Infect Dis. 2018;66(8):e49-e75.
15. Useful resource: https://www.iamat.org/world-schistosomiasis-risk-chart
16. Agyemang C, et al. Non-communicable diseases in migrants: an expert review. J Travel Med. Nov 2018.
17. Wassu-UAB Foundation: https://www.uab.cat/web/the-foundation/wassu-uab-foundation-1345801939114.html
18. Kaplan A, Hechavarría S, Martín M, Bonhoure I. Health consequences of female genital mutilation/cutting in the Gambia, evidence into action. Reprod Health. 2011.
19. González Martínez MÁ, Castaño Suero MJ, Guerrero Muñoz M, Francisco Rossetti A, Sequeira Aymar E, Roca Saumell C. Atención inicial al paciente inmigrante en atención primaria. Aten Primaria. 2024;56(7):102896. doi: 10.1016/j.aprim.2024.102896. PMID: 38417201.
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26. Agyemang C, van den Born BJ. Non-communicable diseases in migrants: an expert review. J Travel Med. 2019;26(2):tay107. doi: 10.1093/jtm/tay107. PMID: 30346574.
27. WHO. Mental health of refugees and migrants: risk and protective factors and access to care. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240081840
28. IOM. Coming home can be harder than leaving: the psychosocial challenges of being a returnee. https://americas.iom.int/en/blogs/coming-home-can-be-harder-leaving-psychosocial-challenges-being-returnee
29. Davies AA, Borland RM, Blake C, West HE. The dynamics of health and return migration. PLoS Med. 2011;8(6):e1001046. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001046. PMID: 21738448.
30. CDC. Visiting friends and relatives (VFR). https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2024/work-and-other-reasons/visiting-friends-and-relatives
31. CDC. Hajj and Umrah recommendations. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2024/itineraries/saudi-arabia-hajj-and-umrah-pilgrimages
32. Umrah health regulations (Saudi MoH). https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/HealthAwareness/Pilgrims_Health/Documents/Health-Regulations-Umrah-EN.pdf
33. Health advice for pilgrims (Saudi MoH). https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/HealthAwareness/Pilgrims_Health/Pages/Guidelines-for-Hajj.aspx

This course has scientific endorsement of SEIMC and SEMTSI:

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