

# Vulnerability, migration and wellbeing – recommendations, work in progress and opportunities for action

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- Primary care clinic in East London for people with difficulty accessing mainstream NHS;
- Staffed by volunteer GPs, nurses & support workers;
- Advocacy service for GP registration and secondary care;

Influencing health policy and practice.



## NHS England (NHSE)

 Introduce an accountability mechanism to ensure GP surgeries apply NHSE registration standards and discharge their duties in a nondiscriminatory manner, in line with NHSE New Patient Registration guidance.

Register wi <sup>,</sup>	th a GP surgery service		•
	IS Digital work programme is co-developing a new GP regi e development of an online service.	stration service model	
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NHS

Digital

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New evidence on the systemic barriers that lead to unsuccessful registration attempts with General Practitioners in London

**Barriers to GP registration** 



## Home Office

 Mandate accommodation contractors to provide residents with direct assistance to register with a GP, access health screening and wider NHS services, and NHS orientation information including accessing a HC2 certificate.

Ensure that this change is made by a variation to the Asylum Accommodation and Support Statement of Requirements and via the dissemination of clear guidance to all contracted providers and establish parity between the support available for arrivals across all variations of accommodation.

#### Asylum Accommodation and Support

Schedule 2

#### STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

[Note: Any references within this document to existing or proposed representative groups may be subject to change]

House of Commons

Home Office preparedness for COVID-19 (Coronavirus): institutional accommodation

Fourth Report of Session 2019–21



## Quality Care Commission (CQC)

 Incorporate measures to ensure routine inspections of asylum accommodation to assess how accessible and responsive practices are to the health and health access needs of asylum seekers and make appropriate recommendations for improvement where necessary.



#### **UK Government**

- Suspend the NHS charging regulations and introduce a firewall between health services and immigration enforcement.
- Ensure that the agenda to eradicate race and ethnic health inequality includes a focus on structural, policy and practice led drivers of inequality.
- Enable space to document and reflect on the experiences of communities impacted by language barriers, the NHS charging regulations and associated data -sharing implications and GP registration refusal, making appropriate system wide recommendations.
- In the event of a future public health crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, anticipate and respond to the emerging needs of communities who experience routine healthcare exclusion and/or whose socio-economic circumstances increase their risk of adverse outcome. Produce responsive, accessible, and regularly updated public health resources in a variety of languages to mitigate disproportionate impact.

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#### London mayor calls for free NHS care for all UK residents to help 'prevent another Windrush scandal'

Currently some migrants, mainly Black and Asian, can face being charged upfront fees for healthcare that is not deemed urgent or immediately necessary, or be charged retrospectively for urgent treatment.





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<sup>14 February 2022</sup> Ethnic Inequalities in Healthcare: A Rapid Evidence Review





## Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and UK Health Security Agency

- Develop and implement a comprehensive community engagement plan to monitor and respond to the harms of the NHS charging regulations and other systemic drivers of health inequality in order to build trust within impacted communities and ensure public health and health promotion.
- Look beyond policies which disincentivise the uptake of screening and treatment for infectious diseases and take a system-wide approach to improve engagement in wider health services including access to primary care, immunisations, and routine screening services to proactively address health inequality.





## **COVID Enquiry**

 Ensure that the scope of the enquiry includes the experiences of migrants and people with insecure immigration status and how their immigration status and experience of the immigration system impacted their health and wellbeing during the pandemic.



