



## Healthcare For Uninsured Migrant Populations in Ontario: What Do Nurses Need To Know?

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# Accessibility and Costs of Healthcare for Refugee Claimants Following Changes to the Interim Federal Health Programme



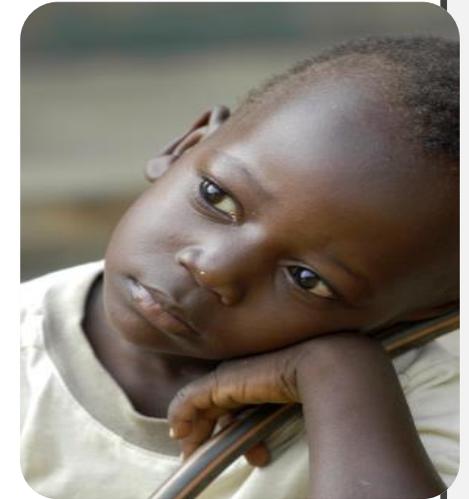
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**The Migratory Status  
of the Child and  
Limited Access  
to Health Care:  
Equity and Ethical Issues**



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## WHO ARE THESE “UNINSURED MIGRANTS”?

*Individuals from another country residing in Canada (with the intent to stay here) who do not have access to publicly funded coverage for healthcare/medical services*

Newly arrived  
immigrants, PRs,  
convention refugees

90-day wait period  
upon arrival until,  
then covered under  
OHIP

Refugee  
claimants/asylum  
Seekers

Currently  
immediately covered  
under IFHP due to  
policy revisions

Undocumented &  
partially documented  
migrants

No access to publicly  
funded health care  
coverage

## WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

### BARRIERS

#### Accessing care

- Delaying seeking care
- Being denied care
- Being asked to pay for services for which they are covered
- Feeling stigmatized when accessing care
- Limited care available by volunteer clinics

#### Delivery of care

- HCPs questioning sociocultural beliefs, experiencing cross-cultural barriers; Western medical model
- Unethical treatment by Canadian Border Security Agency when in the hospital

# IMPLICATIONS

## **Negative health outcomes**

- Direct negative consequences of not receiving care
- Delaying care until emergencies → sicker patients with more severe health conditions
- Not following up with healthcare providers
- Psychological distress associated with their migratory or precarious status

## **Financial burden on patients and healthcare systems/institutions**

- Patients cannot afford to pay for care or prescriptions
- Overabundance of patients coming into dedicated but volunteer-run health care clinics for non-insured people

# WHAT CAN NURSES DO?

## *CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS*

- Consider that patients may have different ideas of health and healthcare
  - may expect care to be similar to what they received in their country of origin
  - may be ashamed of, deny, or be unaware of certain illnesses (ex. mental illnesses)
- Ensure confidentiality, especially for undocumented and partially documented patients
- Ensure vaccinations are up-to-date
- Be aware that socioeconomic status may influence health issues (**social determinants of health**)
- Implement strategies to reduce language barriers
- Provide patient education: how to navigate the healthcare system, referral to community resources, etc.



COLLEGE OF NURSES  
OF ONTARIO

ORDRE DES INFIRMIÈRES  
ET INFIRMIERS DE L'ONTARIO

# WHAT CAN NURSES DO? ADVOCACY

- Become informed and stay up-to-date with political policies regarding healthcare
- Engage in advocacy → local, provincial, federal, as well as organizational



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