

Context

There is an increased number of displaced people from Ukraine seeking temporary relocation to Queensland. Unlike the Afghan evacuation, Ukrainians will be arriving via privately funded arrangements on commercial flights and will seek to unite with family and friends in the community.

At this point in time, the Commonwealth Government has made six-month visitor visas available for Ukrainians seeking temporary relocation to Australia. Visitor visas do not provide eligibility for Medicare or public health services. On 20 March 2022, the Prime Minister announced the Commonwealth Government will be making available a temporary humanitarian visa to Ukrainians who have arrived in Australia, allowing people to access Medicare. It is anticipated that transitioning to this visa and accessing Medicare will take some time.

Arrivals are predominantly women, children and elderly with limited access to funds as foreign exchange withdrawals are suspended. Many families will have left male partners and family members in Ukraine to resist the Russian invasion. It is anticipated some arrivals will have mental health needs, pre-existing health conditions and require medications. Other health issues identified include:

- pregnant mothers requiring antenatal and maternity care;
- prevalence of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis;
- under-immunisation of children, with a recent outbreak of polio; and
- low COVID-19 vaccination rates - around 45 per cent double dosed.

Quarantine

The Minister for Health and Ambulance Services has approved waiving of Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (QRAC) quarantine fees for displaced Ukrainian arrivals who are not vaccinated, including costs incurred retrospectively for any Ukrainians who have arrived in Queensland since 1 December 2021.

This waiver will apply to all Ukrainian arrivals since 1 December 2021 **regardless of their visa type**.

Post Quarantine Health Costs

Queensland Health is recognising displaced Ukrainian arrivals who have relocated to Queensland since 1 December 2021 as “asylum seekers” for the purpose of Health Service Directive QH-HSD-045. Should a Ukrainian arrival present at a Queensland Health facility, they are considered asylum seekers and funding for their treatment is to be managed in line with the QH Health Service Directive – Fees and Charges for Health Care Services (QH-HSD-045). Further information is found on the [Refugee and asylum seekers information sheet](#).

Some Ukrainian arrivals may be on family reunion or student visas and have access to medical insurance as a requirement of their visa. People with these visa types are not considered asylum seekers and will not be eligible for QH-HSD-045.

This recognition will be reviewed by 31 October 2022 (or earlier) to determine ongoing need. The Commonwealth has announced it will be making available a temporary humanitarian visa to Ukrainians who have arrived in Australia, allowing people to access Medicare. It is anticipated that transitioning to this visa will take some time. Until a person is transitioned to this visa type, Hospital and Health Services should apply QH-HSD-045 to this cohort.

COVID-19 related care

The costs of diagnosing and treating Medicare ineligible patients falls under 'efforts to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in the community' within the NPA-COVID19. Testing for or treatment of COVID-19 should be provided at no cost to the patient as per the [COVID-19 Patient identification, funding, and reporting information sheet](#).

Tuberculosis

Where an Ukrainian arrival requires screening or treatment for Tuberculosis, these costs should be managed through the [Tuberculosis Control Health Service Directive \(QH-HSD-040:2013\)](#).

Identification of Ukrainian Arrivals for public healthcare access

Their visa details should be on VEVO.

Ukrainian arrivals in scope will either be:

- all visitor subclasses 600
- on subclass 449 visas transitioning to a humanitarian visa, where Medicare has not been administered yet.

People on 449 visas are on a pathway to accessing Medicare, however the process can take a considerable amount of time. Hospital and Health Services should check if a person has access to Medicare before applying QH-HSD-045.

Exclusions: Ukrainians arriving on visas where medical insurance is a requirement of the visa, such as family reunion visa and student visas.

Some people may have language barriers and may not understand what they are required to do e.g. provide identification when they arrive at hospital.

The official languages of Ukraine are Ukrainian and Russian.

Queensland Health has developed an information sheet for displaced Ukrainian people in Queensland which can be accessed on this page: [Public Healthcare Access – Asylum seeker Healthcare and Services | Queensland Health](#).

Information that may also be of assistance is also available on QHEPS: [Public Healthcare Access – Asylum seeker Healthcare and Services | Queensland Health](#)