

VACCINES FOR MIGRANTS AND REGIONE VENETO PROTOCOL: AN UPDATE ON VACCINE COVERAGE IN THE APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, IN THE HEALTH DISTRICTS 1 AND 2 OF THE AZIENDA ULSS 9, VERONA, ITALY

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Introduction: In the last few years, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) underlined the importance of assessing the vaccine coverage of the migrants, allowing them to have access to vaccinations in the countries of arrival. Since 2015, in the Regione Veneto, a protocol has been started up with the aim of monitoring infectious disease and immune prophylaxis in the applicants for international protection. The protocol offers free diphtheria-pertussis-polio vaccine (DP-IPV) and measles-mumps-rubella-varicella vaccine (MMRV).

Methods: Our service of public health carried out a cross-sectional, observational study analysing data from the computerized vaccine registry of the Regione Veneto, in order to quantify the subjects applying for international protection who had been given the DP-IPV vaccine and MMRV vaccine in 2017 in the health districts 1 and 2 of AULSS 9, as scheduled in the Regione Veneto Protocol.

Results: The analysis of the above-mentioned data showed that in 2017, our Service performed 584 new medical examinations on applicants for international protection (82.7% male, 27.3% female). 97.8% out of these 584 migrants are adults, and 9.2% comes from polio-endemic countries (Afghanistan and Pakistan). DP-IPV vaccine and MMRV vaccine were proposed to adults, while minors were suggested vaccines provided for in the national plan for vaccine prevention 2017-2019. Vaccine coverage in the adults turned out to be 100% of the examined migrants.

Conclusions: This protocol proved to be well accepted by the migrants and easy to manage, therefore helping to prevent new measles and varicella outbreaks in this vulnerable population (migrants applying for international protection), and at the same time contributing to maintain our country polio-free.

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