



TO: **BRP-Funded Agencies**

FROM: Bojana Zorić Martinez, Director  
Bureau of Refugee Programs  
Division of Family and Economic Security  
Department of Children and Families

**SUBJECT: Introduction of the Revised Refugee Medical Screening Protocol**

BRP OPERATIONS MEMO			
<b>No:</b>	24-10		
<b>DATE:</b>	03/5/2024		
RCA	<input type="checkbox"/>	RMA	<input type="checkbox"/>
RMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RHP	<input type="checkbox"/>
RSS	<input type="checkbox"/>	RSI	<input type="checkbox"/>
RYM	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
WFTCP	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARSS	<input type="checkbox"/>
URSS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
ARSI	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARYM	<input type="checkbox"/>
RCDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	URHP	<input type="checkbox"/>

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 03/5/2024

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to announce the publication of [Wisconsin’s Refugee Medical Screening \(RMS\) protocol](#) to the Department of Children and Families’ (DCF’s) Bureau of Refugee Programs (BRP) website.

**BACKGROUND**

Wisconsin’s State Refugee Health Coordinator (SRHC) was in the Department of Health Services (DHS) until March 26, 2023, at which time, this position was moved to BRP, within DCF. Along with this move came the need to move the RMS published protocol to the BRP website.

In addition to the location change of the RMS protocol, BRP’s contract allocation process changed, and new clinics administer the RMS program. There are also new strategies for resettlement nationally, wherein refugees may be resettled in areas that are less familiar with resettlement practices. For those reasons as well, it is timely to announce the publication of the RMS protocol, so that newly contracted and other outlying clinics delivering RMS services are alerted to the most updated guidance available in the state.

**POLICY**

BRP policy has not changed. The BRP Policy Manual references the Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR's) [Dear Colleague Letter 23-08](#), which states that [contracted clinics] "must provide [the required activities and services] in accordance with [CDC guidance]." This is still the case. Use of the CDC guidance is required, and providers must always adhere to the CDC's most up to date guidance when conducting refugee medical screening.

Wisconsin's RMS Protocol has been adapted for use specifically in Wisconsin and is recommended. If a clinic that contracts with BRP chooses to deviate from Wisconsin's adapted protocol, which would therefore represent a deviation from CDC guidance, that clinic must carefully document the reason for the deviation.

**WISCONSIN REFUGEE PROGRAMS DATABASE (WRPD)**

Not applicable

**REPORTING**

Contracted clinics must adhere to all reporting requirements as detailed in their Scope of Services, including entering required demographic information and the list of medical screening tests performed for each client into Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). It is recommended that non-contracted clinics do the same. To gain access to WEDSS or to receive technical support, clinics must email DHS – WEDSS Administrator at [DHSWEDSS@wi.gov](mailto:DHSWEDSS@wi.gov).

**DOCUMENTATION**

As mentioned above, any deviations from Wisconsin's published RMS protocol, which represent deviations from the CDC guidance upon which it is based, must be justified with careful documentation consistent with the regular course of that clinic's service delivery and documentation practices.

**TRAINING**

There will not be any training; please reach out with questions as instructed below.

**AGENCY ACTION**

There is no agency action required at this time.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Not applicable

**CONTACTS**

For BRP Policy Questions: [DCFRefugee@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFRefugee@wisconsin.gov)

For WRPD Questions: [DCFWRPDSupport@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFWRPDSupport@wisconsin.gov)