



# Global Health September 2011



## Welcome to the September 2011 issue of the Global Health Newsletter

Global Health currently manages 2178 panel members operating out of 781 clinics in 164 countries around the world.

The implementation of eHealth continues to increase with 171 clinics now up and running.

### eHealth – Where can I get more information?

All eHealth clinics should have recently received Issue 3 of *eHealth News*.

General information on eHealth can be found on the Panel Dr Gateway.

**See:**  
[www.immi.gov.au/gateways/panel\\_doctors/ehealth](http://www.immi.gov.au/gateways/panel_doctors/ehealth)

If you require your eHealth password for an existing account to be reset, please contact IT Support.

**Telephone:** +61 2 6264 0400  
(24 hours a day, 7 days a week)  
**Email:** [itsupport@immi.gov.au](mailto:itsupport@immi.gov.au)

For non-password related eHealth enquiries, please contact Health Strategies.

**Email:** [health.strategies@immi.gov.au](mailto:health.strategies@immi.gov.au)

### Continuing professional development

Continuing professional development is essential for all medical practitioners in Australia and panel doctors are no exception. Most countries and medical registration boards have their own requirements to ensure physicians keep up to date.

We encourage panel members to keep abreast of medical issues that are in the news in Australia. Both the Medical Journal of Australia and Australian Family Physician are peer-reviewed journals. Both these journals can be accessed online.

**See:**  
[www.mja.com.au](http://www.mja.com.au)  
[www.racgp.org.au/afp](http://www.racgp.org.au/afp)

An article from the September 2011 edition on developmental delay would be of interest for panel doctors.

**See:** [www.racgp.org.au/afp/201109/43835](http://www.racgp.org.au/afp/201109/43835)

Assessment of developmental delay can be challenging. Attachment 2 in the Panel Doctor Instructions provides a checklist for child development milestone guidelines to assist you in this.

**See:**  
[www.immi.gov.au/gateways/panel\\_doctors/conducting\\_medicals/instructions/panel-doctors-instructions.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/gateways/panel_doctors/conducting_medicals/instructions/panel-doctors-instructions.pdf)

### Aged Visitor Health Check

Aged Visitor Health Checks (AVHC) are conducted by Panel Doctors to examine visa applicants 75 years of age or more to assess their fitness to travel to Australia, to remain well for the proposed length of stay, and to return to their home country. The purpose of the examination is to identify the level of functional independence and to exclude unstable medical conditions.

The applicant will provide you with the form, however it is your responsibility to send the completed form to the Australian High Commission, Embassy or Global Health. Completed forms must not be returned to the applicant.

The assessment is designed to identify any current significant medical conditions or a history of significant medical conditions including tuberculosis, dementia, severe cardiac or respiratory disease, conditions that may require dialysis treatment, cancer treatments or treatment involving the use of blood products. Some cases require a chest x-ray.

The AVHC form comprises questions which require 'yes/no' answers and comments. If additional space is required please include an attachment. Please note that a completed report is valid for six months from the date of the examination.

### **Routine Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) testing not needed**

Routine VDRL testing is only required for refugee applicants who have lived in a camp-like situation. Otherwise, it only needs to be done if there is a clinical indication.

### **Pathology test results**

Pathology test results must be stapled to Form 26 or scanned on eHealth along with the result recorded in Part D – Physical Examination.

### **Contacting Global Health**

Please contact the Global Health Helpdesk if you:

- have a clinical or administrative enquiry,
- are moving, changing telephone / fax numbers or your email address
- intend to relocate. You must inform Global Health prior to moving to seek approval for appointment at the new location.

**See:** [health.operations.centre@immi.gov.au](mailto:health.operations.centre@immi.gov.au)

Alternatively, you can submit your enquiry directly.

**See:** [www.immi.gov.au/contacts/forms/email/eform-panel-doctors.htm?51](http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/forms/email/eform-panel-doctors.htm?51)

### **Update - where to send Australian visa medicals**

The information advising where to send visa medicals has been updated and simplified. The 'Where to Send Australian Visa Medicals' document is on the Panel Doctor Gateway.

### **Pregnant applicants**

Temporary visa applicants who are pregnant and applying from low risk countries that have not spent three consecutive months or more in a medium or higher risk countries only need to undergo Hepatitis B testing.

You only need to complete the following sections of the Form 26:

- Part A - Applicants details
- Part D - Question 21 (Hepatitis B only)
- Recommendation (Question 24)
- Sign Declaration (Question 26)

There is no requirement to undertake a full medical examination of these applicants unless further special significance applies.

### **Age thresholds**

The age thresholds that are significant in the visa medical process are as follows:

- Under 11 years of age – No chest x-ray is required. Only a Form 26 is required.
- Under 15 years of age – HIV testing is not routinely required
- Aged 75 years or older – an AVHC for some temporary visas. For permanent visas a Form 26 is required.

### **Notification of leave and locum arrangements**

Panel members are reminded of the need to advise Global Health of any absence of a panel doctor or radiologist. Notice of leave is provided to overseas posts and other panel members to prevent inconvenience to clients.

Ideally panel members should provide **four** weeks notice prior to the intended absence to Global Health. This will allow locum applications to be processed.

It is the panel member's responsibility to ensure that the nominated locum doctor has the qualifications, experience, knowledge and skills to perform the immigration medical examinations. The initial documentation required is the same as a permanent panel appointment.

Once the panel member returns from leave, the locum doctor is required to cease conducting immigration medical examinations.

Panel locums can perform immigration medical examinations on a relief basis (such as further leave, or high demand).