SCREENING PER MALATTIE TRASMISSIBILI NELLE PERSONE STRANIERE

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WHO's new European health policy framework, Health 2020, is sensitive to the area of migration and health, in consideration to the sudden influx of migrants experienced by countries of the Region on several occasions in recent years. Migration poses significant challenges to the health systems of the recipient countries, as it requires an appropriate response to the essential needs of the migrants and to fulfil their fundamental human rights. While evidence on specific health needs of migrants remain elusive, most experts agree that access to health systems that are capable to offer culture-oriented services is the priority for health system re-structuring. Data from a recent systematic review shows that access to appropriate health care across the WHO European Region is very varied and is overwhelmingly shaped by legal frameworks and the regulation of the migration process rather than the analysis of the health needs. Improved communication with the migrant client and coordinated action between agencies within and beyond the medical system clearly emerge as urgent needs.
Whether immigrants should be the target for systematic screening programs towards communicable, and even non communicable diseases, is a matter of discussion, though it appears not to be the core question, as shown above.
There is consensus that communicable diseases that might be considered for targeted screening should, at a minimum, satisfy the following criteria: a) prevalence and impact greater among immigrants thank in the host population; b) availability of reliable screening tools; c) availability of effective, and possibly eradicating, medicines. The evidence of the positive trade-off of screening practices as compared to non-screening practices, would be the conclusive element for decision: this, however, is currently not available for any of the candidate communicable diseases.
On the bases of the above criteria, the European Center for Disease Control is currently developing guidelines for screening of immigrants for the following conditions: tuberculosis, latent tuberculosis infection, HIV infection, HBV infection, HCV infection, strongyloidiasis, schistosomiasis, and vaccine preventable infections.