



**Teheran University of Medical Sciences**

**Faculty of Medicine**

**Title:**

**Evaluation the status and ethical / legal Analysis of providing  
health care to Afghan immigrants and refugees in Iran and  
developing the ethical guideline**

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(PhD) Degree**

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# **Evaluation the status and ethical / legal analysis of providing health care to Afghan immigrants and refugees in Iran and developing the ethical guideline**

## **Abstract**

### **Background & Objective:**

In spite of the clarity of the general policies and high-level documents in Iran's health system regarding the need for immigrants and refugees to enjoy health services and Iran's membership in relevant conventions, some factors such as Iran's political and social situation, including the impact of foreign sanctions and the decrease in the government's economic power and the non-uniformity of the insurance coverage of providing health services to the immigrants has faced the Iranian government with moral challenges in the way of achieving the intended goals. The current research has examined the relationship and interaction between medical ethics, international law and Iranian law on how to provide health services to refugees and foreign immigrants living in Iran.

### **Method:**

This study was carried out in three parts (literature review, qualitative study and drafting of the ethical document for providing health services to Afghan refugees and immigrants in Iran).

In the first part, the search for theoretical texts and sources related to the right to health and how to provide health services to Afghan immigrants and refugees in Iran was done using the scoping review method, and with this method, all sources and texts such as scientific texts in the form of articles, theses and books as well as newspapers and social sites were reviewed to identify the trends and current situation of immigrants and refugees from the perspective of justice in health and right to health. In the second part, a qualitative study was conducted using semi-structured interviews. In total, 64 stakeholders related to the health of Afghan immigrants and refugees in Iran participated in the interview. In the third part, the content of the draft ethical guide for the provision of health services to immigrants and refugees in Iran, based on research data, including the review of related documents, the findings of a qualitative study, and the relevant laws and regulations of the country, was prepared by the research group and finalized based on the opinions of the participants in the expert panel.

### **Findings:**

Based on the content of the reviewed documents, what should be provided in the internal laws and regulations regarding health services was determined and formulated. Also, the international laws and documents related to the health and status of immigrants and refugees all over the world require the supervision of member governments of treaties and declarations and documents, to benefit the covered community (including immigrants and refugees) from the right to health and health care, preventive treatment and social welfare, recommend and emphasize any distinction in terms of race, nationality, political and religious beliefs.

In the qualitative study, after analyzing the data, the main components of the research were determined in four groups, 10 subgroups, 26 items and based on 212 codes, and the details of the stakeholders' point of view and value system were determined.

In the final stage, the draft ethical guide related to the provision of health services to immigrants and refugees was prepared by the research team and the final text of the ethical guide was compiled.

**Conclusion:**

It is felt that there is a need for binding international documents and treaties that oblige governments to make necessary policies to maintain and ensure public health. It seems that despite the domestic and international laws and regulations regarding the right to receive health services for immigrants and refugees, the guarantee of the implementation of these laws and regulations is doubtful and continuous monitoring is effective in guaranteeing the right to health and realizing justice in health.

Keywords: right to health, immigrants' health, health policy, justice in health, status of immigrants and refugees