

HIV Care Services Offered to Foreign People Living with HIV in Advanced Countries

Ssu-Yi Huang^{1*}, Kwei-Feng Wang¹, Yen-Fang Huang¹, Chang-Hsun Chen²

Abstract

In recent years, international organizations actively launch programs to lift the ban on foreign people living with HIV (PLHIV) to cross borders. To comply with global trend, Taiwan also starts amending “HIV Infection Control and Patient Rights Protection Regulation” and implemented on 4th February 2015, lifting the strict ban on foreign PLHIV to enter, stay, and reside. When countries gradually resolve the limitation to foreign PLHIV to cross borders, there follow the systematic problems of providing foreign PLHIV with medical care services. Simultaneously, whether foreign PLHIV can access HIV medical care resources in an affordable charge becomes an important factor to decide to study, work, or reside in a foreign nation. This article broadly researches restriction on PLHIV’s visa application, coverage of private insurance, national health insurance, national health services for foreigners, and copayments under different health service systems in several advanced countries, including United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, England and Japan, in order to understand their accessibility of HIV medical care resources to foreign PLHIV. In sum, since most advanced countries greatly restrict visa approval when people apply for long-term residence or demand a considerable amount of copayment when people seeking for medical care, medical care resources remain hard to access for foreign PLHIV. Therefore, it is recommended when PLHIV go abroad to study, work or reside, they shall understand the country’s related regulation in advance, and consider to purchase private insurance or bring drugs from their home country.

Keywords: Foreigners, HIV, Medical care resources, Accessibility, Advanced countries

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Evolution and Innovation of Health Examination System for Foreign Employees, Taiwan, 1989–2015

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Abstract

The practice of employing foreigners for labor services, which is also referred to as foreign labors, was introduced in Taiwan in 1989. As these labors primarily come from Southeast Asia countries with high-risk for infectious diseases, the mandatory health examination for foreign labors was launched at the same time in order to prevent importation of infectious diseases. This article collected relevant information about the health examination system for foreign labors in Taiwan during 1989 and 2015. It is narrated in four aspects, including the regulations and the central competent authority, the timing of health examination and the process of management, the items of health examination and the management of foreign and domestic accredited hospitals. As of 2015, the health examination for foreign labors has been implemented for over 26 years. During this period, the system has been adjusted several times according to related regulation amendments and the purpose of disease prevention. Moreover, the important innovations made in terms of human rights and computerized management in recent years are all described in details. In the future, the government will continue to make changes to the system based on the government policy on labor, international epidemics and management experiences of the other countries to ensure human rights, economic development and the health and wellbeing of the people.

Keywords: Foreign employees, Foreign labors, Health examination

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Weekly Data of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (by week of diagnosis)

Case diagnosis week		Week 50		Week 1–50	
Classification	Disease Diagnosed ¹	2016	2015	2016	2015
Category I	Plague	0	0	0	0
	Rabies	0	0	0	0
	SARS	0	0	0	0
	Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Category II	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	2	0	39	19
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type A	13	6	1091	151
	Amoebiasis	5	7	303	347
	Anthrax	0	0	0	0
	Chikungunya Fever	1	0	11	4
	Cholera	0	0	9	10
	Dengue Fever	4	700	792	42884
	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
	Enterohemorrhagic E. coli Infection	0	0	0	0
	Epidemic Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0
	Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome	0	0	3	2
	Malaria	0	0	14	9
	Measles	0	0	13	29
	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	8	3
	Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	5	6
	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
	Rubella	0	0	4	6
Shigellosis	4	7	212	182	
Typhoid fever	2	2	11	29	
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	
Category III	Acute Viral Hepatitis type B	3	7	109	119
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type C ⁵	6	3	195	211
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type D	0	0	1	2
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type E	0	0	16	6
	Acute Viral Hepatitis untype	0	0	0	2
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Enteroviruses Infection with Severe Complications	1	0	31	5
	Haemophilus Influenza type b Infection	0	1	14	3
	Japanese Encephalitis	0	0	23	30
	Legionellosis	1	0	114	160
	Mumps ²	11	13	588	749
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0
	Pertussis	0	0	18	87
	Tetanus ²	1	0	14	11
	Category IV	Botulism	1	0	6
Brucellosis		0	0	0	2
Complicated Influenza		15	6	2060	833
Complicated Varicella ⁴		0	1	42	48
Endemic Typhus Fever		0	0	14	33
Herpesvirus B Infection		0	0	0	0
Invasive Pneumococcal Disease		11	6	559	494
Leptospirosis		1	1	118	85
Lyme Disease		0	0	2	2
Melioidosis		1	1	50	38
Q Fever		0	0	43	44
Scrub Typhus		9	11	491	503
Toxoplasmosis		0	0	10	13
Tularremia	0	0	0	0	
Category V	Ebola Virus Disease	0	0	0	0
	Ebola-Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0	0	0
	Novel Influenza A Virus Infections ⁶	0	0	0	0
	Lassa Fever	0	0	0	0
	Rift Valley Fever	0	0	0	0
	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus	0	0	0	0
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	

1. The following 8 chronic diseases are excluded from the table: MDR-TB, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, HIV Infection, AIDS, Hansen Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.
2. Reported cases.
3. Since 2014/1/1, "Varicella" was modified to "Complicated Varicella".
4. Since 2014/3/6, the case definition for confirmed Acute hepatitis C was changed from "meet the clinical **and** laboratory conditions" to "meet the clinical **or** laboratory conditions".
5. Since 2014/7/1, various subtypes of human cases of avian influenza are reported as "novel influenza A virus infections", a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease. The original "H5N1 flu" and "H7N9 flu", which were respectively listed as a Category I Notifiable Infectious Disease and a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease were removed from the list on the same day.
6. Since 2016/1/22, "Zika Virus Infection" was listed as a Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Suspected Clusters

- Twenty-two clusters were reported, including 12 diarrhea clusters, 3 varicella clusters, 3 upper respiratory tract infection clusters, 2 influenza-like illness clusters, and 2 tuberculosis clusters.

Imported Infectious Diseases

- 9 confirmed cases were imported from 4 countries during Week 50 of 2016.

Disease \ Country	Indonesia	Japan	Vietnam	Philippines	Total
Dengue Fever	3			1	4
Amoebiasis	1		1		2
Typhoid fever		1			1
Chikungunya Fever	1				1
Shigellosis	1				1
Total	6	1	1	1	9

Note: The statistics listed in this table include imported cases that were either confirmed or updated* in the previous week.

- A total of 770 confirmed cases were imported from 38 countries in 2016.
- Top 3 imported diseases : Dengue fever (349), Amoebiasis (155), Shigellosis (99).
- Top 3 countries responsible for most imported cases : Indonesia (324), Philippines (94), Thailand (67).

Summary of Epidemic

- **Influenza** : As the recent temperature has fluctuated drastically from day to night, influenza activity is expected to gradually increase. H3N2 is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community.
- **Enterovirus** : The epidemic has increased continuously in the community. Coxsackie A virus is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community. Sporadic cases of enterovirus 71 infection have been recently confirmed. Thus far this year, a total of 168 cases of enterovirus 71 infection, including 23 severe cases and 144 mild cases, and 1 suspected severe cases, have been confirmed.
- **Dengue Fever** : Imported cases have continued to be reported. The recent temperature in southern Taiwan has contributed to the continuing mosquito activity.
- **Zika Virus Infection** : New cases of Zika virus infection have been confirmed in Texas, United States. The epidemic has continuously increased in Southeast Asian countries, elevating the risk of importing Zika virus into Taiwan from these countries.

Weekly Data of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (by week of diagnosis)

Case diagnosis week		Week 51		Week 1—51	
Classification	Disease Diagnosed ¹	2016	2015	2016	2015
Category I	Plague	0	0	0	0
	Rabies	0	0	0	0
	SARS	0	0	0	0
	Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Category II	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	1	0	40	19
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type A	16	13	1107	164
	Amoebiasis	5	8	308	355
	Anthrax	0	0	0	0
	Chikungunya Fever	1	0	12	4
	Cholera	0	0	9	10
	Dengue Fever	5	560	797	43444
	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
	Enterohemorrhagic E. coli Infection	0	0	0	0
	Epidemic Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0
	Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome	0	0	3	2
	Malaria	0	0	14	9
	Measles	1	0	14	29
	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	8	3
	Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	5	6
	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
	Rubella	0	0	4	6
	Shigellosis	3	3	215	185
	Typhoid fever	2	0	13	29
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	
Category III	Acute Viral Hepatitis type B	4	4	113	123
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type C ⁵	8	5	203	216
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type D	0	0	1	2
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type E	0	0	16	6
	Acute Viral Hepatitis untype	0	0	0	2
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Enteroviruses Infection with Severe Complications	1	0	32	5
	Haemophilus Influenza type b Infection	0	0	14	3
	Japanese Encephalitis	0	0	23	30
	Legionellosis	1	4	115	164
	Mumps ²	10	11	598	760
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0
	Pertussis	0	0	18	87
	Tetanus ²	0	0	14	11
Category IV	Botulism	0	0	6	2
	Brucellosis	0	0	0	2
	Complicated Influenza	10	7	2070	840
	Complicated Varicella ⁴	0	0	42	48
	Endemic Typhus Fever	1	0	15	33
	Herpesvirus B Infection	0	0	0	0
	Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	17	15	576	509
	Leptospirosis	2	2	120	87
	Lyme Disease	0	0	2	2
	Melioidosis	1	1	51	39
	Q Fever	0	0	43	44
	Scrub Typhus	5	13	496	516
	Toxoplasmosis	1	0	11	13
Tularremia	0	0	0	0	
Category V	Ebola Virus Disease	0	0	0	0
	Ebola-Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0	0	0
	Novel Influenza A Virus Infections ⁶	0	0	0	0
	Lassa Fever	0	0	0	0
	Rift Valley Fever	0	0	0	0
	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus	0	0	0	0
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	

1. The following 8 chronic diseases are excluded from the table: MDR-TB, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, HIV Infection, AIDS, Hansen Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.
2. Reported cases.
3. Since 2014/1/1, "Varicella" was modified to "Complicated Varicella".
4. Since 2014/3/6, the case definition for confirmed Acute hepatitis C was changed from "meet the clinical **and** laboratory conditions" to "meet the clinical **or** laboratory conditions".
5. Since 2014/7/1, various subtypes of human cases of avian influenza are reported as "novel influenza A virus infections", a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease. The original "H5N1 flu" and "H7N9 flu", which were respectively listed as a Category I Notifiable Infectious Disease and a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease were removed from the list on the same day.
6. Since 2016/1/22, "Zika Virus Infection" was listed as a Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Suspected Clusters

- Twenty-four clusters were reported, including 10 diarrhea clusters, 5 tuberculosis clusters, 3 varicella clusters, 3 upper respiratory tract infection clusters, 3 influenza-like illness clusters.

Imported Infectious Diseases

- 14 confirmed cases were imported from 7 countries during Week 51 of 2016.

Country Disease	Indonesia	Philippines	Myanmar	India	Maldives	France	Malaysia	Total
Amoebiasis	3	1						4
Dengue Fever		1	1		1		1	4
Typhoid fever	1	1						2
Measles				1				1
Chikungunya Fever	1							1
Hepatitis A						1		1
Shigellosis	1							1
Total	6	3	1	1	1	1	1	14

Note: The statistics listed in this table include imported cases that were either confirmed or updated* in the previous week.

- A total of 784 confirmed cases were imported from 39 countries in 2016.
- Top 3 imported diseases : Dengue fever (353), Amoebiasis (159), Shigellosis (100).
- Top 3 countries responsible for most imported cases : Indonesia (330), Philippines (97), Thailand (67).

Summary of Epidemic

- **Influenza** : Since the northeast monsoon has become prevalent, the recent temperature has dropped. As a result, influenza activity is expected to gradually increase. H3N2 is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community.
- **Enterovirus** : The epidemic has slowed down in the community. Coxsackie A virus is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community. Sporadic cases of enterovirus 71 infection have been recently confirmed. Thus far this year, a total of 168 cases of enterovirus 71 infection, including 23 severe cases and 145 mild cases, have been confirmed.
- **Zika Virus Infection** : New cases of Zika virus infection have been confirmed in Texas, United States. The epidemic has continuously increased in Southeast Asian countries, elevating the risk of importing Zika virus into Taiwan from these countries.

Weekly Data of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (by week of diagnosis)

Case diagnosis week		Week 52		Week 1 – 52	
Classification	Disease Diagnosed ¹	2016	2015	2016	2015
Category I	Plague	0	0	0	0
	Rabies	0	0	0	0
	SARS	0	0	0	0
	Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Category II	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	1	0	41	19
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type A	16	5	1123	169
	Amoebiasis	10	7	318	362
	Anthrax	0	0	0	0
	Chikungunya Fever	2	0	14	4
	Cholera	0	0	9	10
	Dengue Fever	6	298	803	43742
	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
	Enterohemorrhagic E. coli Infection	0	0	0	0
	Epidemic Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0
	Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome	0	0	3	2
	Malaria	0	0	14	9
	Measles	0	0	14	29
	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	8	3
	Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	5	6
	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
	Rubella	0	1	4	7
	Shigellosis	5	3	220	188
Typhoid fever	0	0	13	29	
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	
Category III	Acute Viral Hepatitis type B	0	3	113	126
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type C ⁵	5	4	208	220
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type D	0	0	1	2
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type E	0	0	16	6
	Acute Viral Hepatitis untype	0	0	0	2
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Enteroviruses Infection with Severe Complications	2	0	34	5
	Haemophilus Influenza type b Infection	0	0	14	3
	Japanese Encephalitis	0	0	23	30
	Legionellosis	1	0	116	164
	Mumps ²	16	7	614	767
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0
	Pertussis	0	0	18	87
	Tetanus ²	0	0	14	11
Category IV	Botulism	0	0	6	2
	Brucellosis	0	0	0	2
	Complicated Influenza	14	9	2084	849
	Complicated Varicella ⁴	1	3	43	51
	Endemic Typhus Fever	0	0	15	33
	Herpesvirus B Infection	0	0	0	0
	Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	16	14	592	523
	Leptospirosis	2	3	122	90
	Lyme Disease	0	0	2	2
	Melioidosis	1	0	52	39
	Q Fever	3	0	46	44
	Scrub Typhus	9	2	505	518
	Toxoplasmosis	0	0	11	13
Tularremia	0	0	0	0	
Category V	Ebola Virus Disease	0	0	0	0
	Ebola-Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0	0	0
	Novel Influenza A Virus Infections ⁶	0	0	0	0
	Lassa Fever	0	0	0	0
	Rift Valley Fever	0	0	0	0
	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus	0	0	0	0
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	

1. The following 8 chronic diseases are excluded from the table: MDR-TB, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, HIV Infection, AIDS, Hansen Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.
2. Reported cases.
3. Since 2014/1/1, "Varicella" was modified to "Complicated Varicella".
4. Since 2014/3/6, the case definition for confirmed Acute hepatitis C was changed from "meet the clinical and laboratory conditions" to "meet the clinical or laboratory conditions".
5. Since 2014/7/1, various subtypes of human cases of avian influenza are reported as "novel influenza A virus infections", a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease. The original "H5N1 flu" and "H7N9 flu", which were respectively listed as a Category I Notifiable Infectious Disease and a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease were removed from the list on the same day.
6. Since 2016/1/22, "Zika Virus Infection" was listed as a Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Suspected Clusters

- Twenty clusters were reported, including 13 diarrhea clusters, 5 upper respiratory tract infection clusters, 1 varicella cluster, and 1 influenza-like illness cluster.

Imported Infectious Diseases

- 12 confirmed cases were imported from 8 countries during Week 52 of 2016.

Country Disease	Indonesia	Singapore	Malaysia	Philippines	Hong Kong	Korea	Vietnam	France	Total
Dengue Fever	1	2	2				1		6
Amoebiasis	1			1				1	3
FluSC						1			1
Chikungunya Fever				1					1
Hepatitis A					1				1
Total	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	12

Note: The statistics listed in this table include imported cases that were either confirmed or updated* in the previous week.

- A total of 796 confirmed cases were imported from 39 countries in 2016.
- Top 3 imported diseases : Dengue fever (359), Amoebiasis (162), Shigellosis (100).
- Top 3 countries responsible for most imported cases : Indonesia (332), Philippines (99), Thailand (67).

Summary of Epidemic

- **Influenza** : Although the recent temperature has fluctuated drastically from day to night, influenza activity is expected to gradually increase. H3N2 is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community.
- **Enterovirus** : The epidemic has slowed down in the community. Coxsackie A virus is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community. Sporadic cases of enterovirus 71 infection have been recently confirmed. Thus far this year, a total of 168 cases of enterovirus 71 infection, including 23 severe cases and 145 mild cases, have been confirmed.
- **Zika Virus Infection** : The epidemic has continuously increased in epidemic areas, elevating the risk of importing Zika virus into Taiwan from these countries.

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