

Tuberculosis Intervention

Most tuberculosis (TB) patients are treated as outpatients, as they are considered infectious only during the first 2 weeks after starting drug therapy treatment. Combination drug therapy is the mainstay of all treatment protocols.



PLAY PICMONIC

Hospital Care

Airborne Isolation

[Airborne-infantry Droplet in Isolation](#)

Because TB is transmitted via respiratory droplets, a high-efficiency particulate air respirator (HEPA) mask must be used alongside placement in a negative pressure room. Health care providers are fitted for proper mask size.

Drug Therapy

Combination Drug Therapy (RIPE)

[Ripe Combination of Med-bottles](#)

The acronym RIPE can be used to remember the four major first-line TB medications: rifampin, isoniazid (INH), pyrazinamide, and ethambutol. Fluoroquinolones and aminoglycosides may be used with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

6-12 Months

[\(6\) Sax to \(12\) Dozen Moon](#)

The initial phase of drug therapy is usually with four drugs during the first 2 months. The continuation phase of drug therapy may be with just 2 medications (INH and rifampin).

Considerations

DOT

[Dot directly observing therapy](#)

Directly observed therapy (DOT) is the best strategy to ensure that possible non-compliant patients take their TB medications as they are watched while swallowing the medications.

BCG Vaccination

[Beast-G with Syringe](#)

Typically not administered to infants or individuals in the USA. However, other countries that have an increased incidence of TB use it. Be sure to ask the patient if they have ever received the vaccination, as their TB skin test will be positive and they should not receive a TB skin test. Patients who receive the BCG vaccine typically show a positive PPD for up to 10 years.

Medication Education

Medication Educator

Patients should not consume alcohol, as TB medications can lead to liver toxicity. Proper education given to the patient regarding the importance of following medication prescriptions is imperative for the successful eradication of the organisms.

3 Negative Sputum Specimens

(3) Tree Negative (-) from Spit-thumb

Patients are considered noninfectious during drug therapy when 3 consecutive sputum specimens are negative. Sputum specimens are collected every 2 to 4 weeks throughout the drug therapy regimen. Patients are cleared to return to work after 3 specimens return negative.

Infection Control

Bacteria Control-station

Teach patients to cover their mouth and nose when coughing and to use a plastic bag for used tissues. Close family members are tested and may be placed on prophylactic TB medication. Patients should sleep alone until noninfectious. Avoid public and crowded settings until noninfectious, or wear a regular surgery mask when in public.