



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

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Date: January 23, 2019 **Administrative Circular: 2019:02**

Attn: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: **Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –
Chapter 4: Tuberculosis (TB) & TB Screening DST**

**Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Manual
- Chapter 4 Tuberculosis:**

- Section 2: Definitions – Revised window period and window period prophylaxis (WPP) definitions – Discard and replace pages 3-4
- Section 4 TB Screening and Testing - Revised Table 4-3b: *TB Screening guidelines for adult clients based on congregate settings* – Revised instruction for LTBI testing. Revised Table 4-7: *TST cut-points* – Revised footnote per WPP update - Discard and replace page 5 & 17
- Section 6 Treatment of Latent TB Infection – Updated eligible candidates for Isoniazid-Rifapentine regimen & related management details – Discard and replace entire section
- Section 8 Assessment and Follow-Up of TB Contacts – Updated information on window period prophylaxis and contacts with previous positive results or previous TB treatment – Discard and replace entire section

Please note the following changes to the TB Screening DST:

- Definitions – Revised window period prophylaxis definition – Discard and replace page 4
- Table 4: *TST cut-points* – revised footnote per WPP update – Discard and replace page 10
- Section 1. Routine Screening – Revised Table 9b: *Routine TB screening guidelines for adult clients based on congregate settings* – Revised instruction for LTBI testing - Discard and replace page 18
- Section 2: Screening of Contacts to Active TB Within the Past 2 Years – Table 10: *TB Screening Guidelines for contacts to active TB within the past 2 years* - Updated information on window period prophylaxis, sputum collection and footnotes - Discard and replace page 20

Overview of Changes – CDC Manual:

The following changes have been made to Section 2: Definitions. *Window period* definition was updated to include timeframes. *Window period prophylaxis (WPP)* was updated to provide

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clarity on which contacts need referral to TB Services for WPP, without delay, and which immune compromised contacts require consultation with TB Services prior to referral for WPP. Section 4, Table 4-3b *TB screening guidelines for adult clients based on congregate settings* was updated to provide clarity on LTBI testing recommendations for specific settings. LTBI screening details were removed from the table and are located in footnotes. For clients entering residential and alcohol treatment programs, the timing of LTBI testing may occur at the discretion of the facility. For clients entering adult residential care facility, it is recommended LTBI testing be offered within 1 month of admission since care facilities tend to have reduced levels of medical surveillance compared to a hospital setting and many clients have reduced mental alertness.

Section 6 was updated to reflect that the isoniazid-rifapentine regimen for LTBI therapy is now available province-wide. The following details related to management of clients taking LTBI therapy were updated:

- Figure 6-1, *Flowchart for initiation of LTBI treatment* – updated to reflect timing of medication reorder process for 12-dose isoniazid-rifapentine regimen
- Table 6-2: *Summary of drugs and dosing for LTBI treatment regimens* – updated to reflect twice-weekly dosing isoniazid for children is 20-40mg/kg, Max 900mg; added isoniazid-rifapentine drug dose for clients under 32kg
- Table 6-3: *Drugs included in LTBI treatment regimens and associated side effects* – revised rifapentine adverse reaction to “platelet disorders” to more accurately reflect potential adverse and allergic reactions
- Section 6.8 Baseline Testing – Revised to include recommendation that baseline blood testing is required for all clients taking isoniazid-rifapentine regimen.
- Table 6-6: *Isoniazid and rifapentine – Summary of baseline testing and ongoing monitoring for clients taking isoniazid and rifapentine for LTBI treatment* – updated to include monthly weight for clients < 5 years old is recommended.
- References – updated to include appropriate isoniazid-rifapentine references.

Additionally, revisions were made to ensure Section 6 adhered to “Do Not Use Abbreviations for Drug Names” program by removing abbreviations such as 4R, 9H and 3HP.

Section 8 was updated to improve clarity on which clients are candidates for window period prophylaxis (WPP) and how to manage contacts with a documented history of prior positive TST or IGRA and/or with previously treated active TB or LTBI. Revisions include:

- Section 8.1: Overview – updated to clarify that WPP is usually recommended for contacts less than 5 years and those with substantial immune suppression.
- Figure 8-1: *Assessment and Follow-Up of TB Contacts* flowchart question updated with “Is contact a candidate for window period prophylaxis?” to clarify that Fig 8-3 is a clinical flowchart for the WPP process.
- Renamed Figure 8-3 to: *Flowchart for management of candidates for window period prophylaxis* and made appropriate revisions in the rest of section that referenced this figure.

- Section 8.3.2 Treatment for Presumed LTBI in Contacts at High Risk for Progression to Active TB Disease – renamed section by replacing “treatment for presumed LTBI” with “Window Period Treatment” and revised 1st paragraph to offer clear definition of candidates for WPP.
- Section 8.6 Contacts with Documented Prior Positive TST or Reactive IGRA Results & Section 8.7 Contacts Previously Treated for Active TB Disease or LTBI – updated recommendations for asymptomatic contacts to clarify appropriate management includes chest x-ray, referral to TB Services, HIV testing if status not known, and further details on CXR and sputum considerations.
- Section 8.7 - Revised statement on retreatment of LTBI to reflect that it may be recommended for contacts under 5 years old or those that have substantial immunosuppressive conditions or therapies.

The TB Screening Form will be updated shortly to align with the revisions to the TB Manual.

If you have questions regarding these changes, please contact Maria MacDougall, Nurse Educator, Clinical Prevention Services or Shaila Jiwa, Senior Practice Leader, Clinical Prevention Services via their contact information below:

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Sincerely,



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