Referral Procedure for Central TB Services

Refer all symptomatic clients to Central Tuberculosis (TB) Services as below:
- Initial phone call to Zone TB CDN for consultation is recommended

Recommend referral for positive reactors from their Primary Care Provider to Central TB Services as below:
- Recent contacts of active TB case (regardless of age)
- TST converters (documented previous negative results within the past 2 years) (regardless of age)
- Individuals with medical conditions/therapies that increase risk of progression from LTBI to active disease (regardless of age)
- All foreign-born people less than 65 years of age who have originated from a country with TB incidence > 200 per 100,000, and who have arrived within the past five years. For TB incidence in individual countries see the World Health Organization TB country, regional and global profiles ([https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/))
- All refugees and evacuees aged less than 65 years originating from countries with TB incidence ≥50 per 100,000 AND have arrived in Canada within the past two years. For TB incidence in individual countries see the World Health Organization TB country, regional and global profiles ([https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/))
- Travelers at high risk of exposure to TB due to travel to countries with high TB prevalence (regardless of age)
- With medical risk factors (regardless of age)
- In addition to the medical risk factors listed on the biologics page, the following additional factors should be assessed for this group only
  - Diabetes
  - Heavy alcohol consumption (>3 drinks/day)
  - Smoke at least 1 pack of cigarettes a day
  - Underweight (<90% ideal body weight; for most people, this is a body mass index <20)
- OR with radiologic descriptors demonstrated on chest x-ray (regardless of age)
- Individuals in correctional institutions (regardless of age)
- Ophthalmologist referred individuals for assessment of Uveitis

Special Considerations
- Individuals who are eligible for TST but are known to have previous positive reaction, verify follow up action(s) with “public health nurse with TB focus” on site

Radiologic descriptors of TB
- The following descriptors may appear in radiography reports, and may suggest prior, inactive, or active TB disease:
  - suspicion of current active TB disease (e.g., upper lung zone pnemonic process, particularly if cavitating or if associated with the acinar shadows of endobronchial spread)
  - upper lobe fibronodular abnormality
  - old granulomatous disease or old tuberculosis (does not include single, isolated granuloma)
  - thoracoplasty
  - intrathoracic adenopathy with or without a lung parenchymal abnormality in an immune compromised person

Referral Process from North, South, and Central zones
- Refer above positive reactors to their primary care provider (PCP) or most responsible healthcare provider (MRHP) for a chest radiograph, sputum for AFB/mycobacteria culture (for those who are symptomatic, screened for medical surveillance, or contacts of active cases, 3 sputa are required, for all others, 1 sputum is required), and a TB referral (form found at [http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-07980.pdf](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-07980.pdf))
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Central TB Services Contact Information

- Phone: 780-735-1464 Fax: 780-735-1195