

Referral Process for Edmonton Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic

Refer all symptomatic clients to Edmonton TB Services as below:

- Initial phone call to Edmonton TB Services (780-407-4550) or TB Physician on call (780-407-8822) for consultation is recommended
- Complete Tuberculosis Referral form and follow process as outlined below

Refer positive reactors to Edmonton TB Clinic 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)
- Children 6 months to 14 years of age who have lived in a country with high TB prevalence and have immigrated within the past two years
- Refugees under 50 years of age from countries with high incidence of TB prevalence and have arrived within the past 2 years
- Travelers at high risk of exposure to TB due to travel to countries with high TB prevalence (regardless of age)

Individuals at risk for potential occupational exposure to infectious TB (see

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/cdc/if-hp-cdc-ipsm-tuberculin-skin-test-hcs-appdx-f-08-302.pdf>)

- 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 correction institutions (regardless of age)
- Ophthalmologist referred individuals for assessment of Uveitis

Special Considerations

- Individuals who are eligible for TST but are known to have a **previous positive reaction** should be referred to their family/referring physician for chest radiograph. Public Health follow up is **NOT** required.
- Positive reactors referred by a specialty program/physician should be referred back to that program, with TST result and interpretation. The program/physician can then refer to TB Clinic.
- Post-secondary students in health sciences faculties who do not have their own student health service and travelers eligible for TST should be screened at Edmonton Travel Health Services / Immunization Business Unit.

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 pneumonic 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

- Refer above positive reactors for chest radiograph (unless pregnant) using the referral form (found at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-07980.pdf>)
- Fax x-ray report with Tuberculosis Referral form to Edmonton TB Clinic:
- **Phone: 780-407-4550 Fax 780-407-4562**