The Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment: A Tool for Identifying Populations at Increased Risk of TB

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Disclosures

- I do not have any potential conflict of interest or financial interest to disclose.
- There is no endorsement by the Pennsylvania Department of Health of any commercial products discussed or displayed in conjunction with this educational activity.
The Challenge

“We need a new, expanded approach to eliminate TB in the United States. A major part of this approach is preventing people with latent TB infection from ever developing TB disease.”

Dr. Philip LoBue, Director of the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
The Magnitude

• The CDC estimates that more than 13 million people in the U.S. have TB infection (TBI).

• That’s about 1,300 people with TBI for every one case of TB disease.
In September 2016, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended screening populations at increased risk for TBI.

Latent Tuberculosis Infection: Screening
Release Date: September 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Grade (What's This?)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asymptomatic adults at increased risk for infection</td>
<td>The USPSTF recommends screening for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in populations at increased risk.</td>
<td>B</td>
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Screening Recommendations

The USPSTF recommends testing the following populations who are at increased risk of TBI:

- Persons who were born in, lived in or frequently travel to countries where TB is common; and
- Persons who currently, or used to, live in large congregate settings such as nursing homes, homeless shelters, or correctional facilities.

Source: [https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2547761](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2547761)
In addition, the CDC recommends testing:

• Health care workers and others who work in places at high risk of TB transmission;
• Someone who has been in close contact with a case of infectious TB; and
• Persons with a weakened immune system

Traditionally, state and local public health departments have led TB prevention and control efforts, but many people who need testing and treatment for TBI receive care from private health care providers and community health centers.
Project Objective

Develop an accessible, easy-to-use tool to help public and private health care providers identify people at increased risk of TBI.
**TB Risk Assessment Tool**

**Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment - Adults**

- Use this tool to identify asymptomatic adults for TB testing.
- Do not repeat TB testing unless there are new risk factors since the last test.
- Do not treat for TB infection until a diagnosis of active TB disease has been excluded:
  - For patients with TB symptoms or an abnormal chest X-ray consistent with active TB disease, evaluate for active TB disease with a chest X-ray, symptom screen, and if indicated, sputum AFB smears, cultures and nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT). A negative interferon gamma release assay or tuberculin skin test does not rule out active TB disease.

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### TB testing is recommended if any of the 3 boxes below are checked.

- **Birth, travel or residence** in a country with an elevated TB rate for at least a month
  - Includes any country other than the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or a country in western or northern Europe.
  - If resources require prioritization within this group, prioritize those patients with at least one medical risk for progression to TB disease (see the Pennsylvania Adult TB Risk Assessment User Guide for a list).
  - An interferon gamma release assay test is preferred over a tuberculin skin test for non-U.S. born persons 2 years of age or older.

- **Immunosuppression**, current or planned
  - Examples include HIV infection, organ transplant recipient or treatment with a TNF-alpha antagonist (e.g., infliximab, etanercept, others), steroids (equivalent to a prednisone dose of 35 mg/day for one month or longer), or other immunosuppressive medication.

- **Close contact** to someone with infectious TB disease during lifetime

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If TB test is positive, rule out active TB disease before diagnosing TB infection.

- **No risk factors identified; TB testing is not indicated at this time**

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Provider:  
Patient Name:  
Assessment Date:  
Date of Birth:  

Adapted for local use from the California Tuberculosis Risk Assessment tool at [www.ctca.org](http://www.ctca.org).
Desired Outcome

Increased testing of persons at risk of TBI and treatment of those infected

CDC works to engage affected communities & medical providers.
LTBI Toolkit

To order, call the TB program at (717) 787-6267
Toolkit Components

• Letter from the Pennsylvania TB Controller
• “Think TB ... Test for TB” postcard
• TB resources pamphlet
• CDC Factsheets
  ▪ Information for health care professionals
  ▪ Counseling tools for use with patients
• Professional education materials
Professional Education Materials

- LTBI: A Guide for Primary Health Care Providers¹
- TB: A New Screening Recommendation and an Expanded Approach to Elimination in the United States (American Journal of Nursing; August 2017)²

² [https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2017/08000/CE___Tuberculosis___A_New_Screening_Recommendation.24.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2017/08000/CE___Tuberculosis___A_New_Screening_Recommendation.24.aspx)
Questions or Comments?

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