

## Referral Process for Central TB Services

### Refer all symptomatic clients to Central Tuberculosis Services as below:

- Initial phone call to Zone TB CDN for consultation is recommended
- Complete TB referral form and follow process as outlined below

### Refer positive reactors to Central Tuberculosis 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  $\geq 50$  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)
- 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 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 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 from North and South zones

- Complete TB referral form (found at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-07980.pdf>)
- Send individual for chest x-ray (unless pregnant)
- Collect sputum for AFB x3 on those who are symptomatic, screened for immigration medical surveillance, contacts of active cases, OR collect sputum for AFB x1 on all others
- Forward x-ray report (and sputum results if available) with TB referral form to Central TB Services

## Referral Process for Central TB Services

### Referral Process from Central zone

- Complete TB referral form (found at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/fm-07980.pdf>)
- Send individual for chest x-ray
- Collect sputum for AFB x3 on those who are symptomatic, screened for immigration medical surveillance, contacts of active cases, OR collect sputum for AFB x1 on all others
- Forward x-ray report (and sputum results if available) with TB referral form to
  - CDC-CDN of Central zone for all individuals

### Central TB Services Contact Information

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