

# Frequently Asked Questions about B Waivers, Civil Surgeons and Immigration

## B WAIVERS

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### What evaluation does this B Waiver need?

The evaluation needed depends on whether the patient was evaluated overseas by the 1991 or 2007 technical instructions. Some countries continue to evaluate immigrants under the 1991 instructions, while others use 2007. The process of switching countries to the 2007 instructions is ongoing. Determining what evaluation is needed requires a careful review of the B waiver information provided to you and may require consultation with the State TB Program. For more detail see: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/tb/docs/Bnotifications.pdf>.

### What steps should I take to find this person? When do I stop looking?

In general, you should not spend more than 30 days trying to locate the B Waiver. Also remember B Waivers are sent a letter upon arrival instructing them to report to the health department. They may come to you before you notify them.

Following are suggested steps and timeframes:

- 1 - Within **5 business days** of receiving paperwork attempt to call the sponsor's phone number as listed on paperwork (if available).
- 2 - Within **10 business days** of receiving paperwork, if unable to contact the B Waiver by phone, send a letter to the sponsor's address. Sample letters are available from the State.
- 3 - If still no response **after 20 business days** of receiving paperwork, a visit to the sponsor's home should take place if resources allow. If a home visit is not possible, try other methods to locate the B waiver and send a second letter via certified mail.
- 4 - By this time...around **30 days** have passed. If you still haven't found the B Waiver, check the appropriate box on the form and send it back to the State or submit via EDN.

Materials should be language appropriate to the greatest extent possible! Remember also to document your attempts.

### What should I do if the person has moved out of my jurisdiction?

Call the TB Program at 971-673-0174. If you are an EDN user, you may transfer the B Waiver via EDN or call the TB Program for assistance.

### Since completing treatment takes so long, when do I report back to the State if the person needs treatment?

If the person is started on treatment because they are suspected to have active TB disease, the State should be notified with the usual case reporting form. The B waiver should be closed when the person completes treatment for TB disease.

If the person is started on treatment for LTBI, you do NOT need to keep the B Waiver open until they complete treatment. Simply indicate the treatment start date on the B Waiver form and write in the comment "State resources do not allow for tracking LTBI completion date".

## **What should I do if a B Waiver comes to my clinic with their paperwork but I haven't gotten the forms from the State?**

Call the TB Program at 971-673-0174.

## **CIVIL SURGEONS**

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### **What is a Civil Surgeon?**

Immigrants who currently reside in the U.S. that wish to change their immigration status (example, become a permanent resident) are required to have a medical examination. The medical examination must be conducted by a Civil Surgeon who has been designated by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

### **Are LHDs required to follow-up with TB referrals from Civil Surgeons?**

LHDs are not required to follow-up with referrals from Civil Surgeons for TB skin tests, chest x-rays or treatment of LTBI.

BUT, if the Civil Surgeon suspects the immigrant has active TB disease (signs and symptoms of TB and/or an abnormal chest x-ray) they must report this to the LHD and the LHD should assist the Civil Surgeon in determining what needs to be done to rule out active TB disease.

### **Are there any referrals from Civil Surgeons LHDs are required to follow-up on?**

If the immigrant has an abnormal chest x-ray suggestive of TB or signs and symptoms of TB disease the Civil Surgeon must refer this to the LHD. The LHD should assist the Civil Surgeon in determining what needs to be done to rule out active TB disease.

## **IMMIGRANTS**

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### **How do I know whether or not an immigrant is a B waiver?**

You should receive notification from the TB Program of all B waivers. Unfortunately, sometimes notification is delayed and the individual comes to the LHD before you have the official paperwork from the State. The immigrant should have with them their own set of B waiver paperwork and/or a letter instructing them to report to the LHD. If they have none of this or have a different type of paperwork...they may not be a B waiver! Call the TB Program at **971-673-0174** for assistance.

### **We have immigrants come into our clinic asking for help with their immigration paperwork that don't seem to be B waivers. What should we do?**

Most likely these are immigrants who already live in the U.S. and are now seeking an adjustment in their immigration status. They may need to be referred to a civil surgeon for screening. A list of civil surgeons is available at:

[https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=offices.type&OfficeLocator.office\\_type=CIV](https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=offices.type&OfficeLocator.office_type=CIV)

If there are further questions, you can refer the immigrant to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Services National Customer Service Center at **1-800-375-5283 (TTY 1-800-767-1833)**.

Although it's good to help out when resources allow, it is not the responsibility of the State TB Program or LHDs to assist with this immigration readjustment process or provide these individuals with LTBI treatment.