



Tuberculosis

World TB Day 3/24/2013

In honor of World TB Day on March 24th this issue will focus on Tuberculosis. The slogan is “Stop TB in my Lifetime” calling for a world free of TB. Despite being curable, tragically, TB causes *several million* deaths annually worldwide. For more information and free World TB Day posters click [here](#) .



Oregon TB Cases 2012

The number of TB cases in Oregon continues to fall! In 2012 there were 61 cases of active TB disease (as opposed to 74 cases in 2011). Of the 61 cases in 2012, 1 of the cases was diagnosed in a correctional facility. However, 13% (8 cases) reported a history of incarceration when they were diagnosed indicating that incarcerated persons remain a risk group for tuberculosis in Oregon.

ICE Detainees and Tuberculosis

Most Oregon correctional facilities will at some point house an ICE ([U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#)) detainee. In 2011, ICE detained approximately 429,000 foreign nationals, an all-time high. Since ICE detainees are often from countries with a high prevalence of TB and may be transfers from prisons or jails in other states that have more TB than Oregon, this group is particularly high risk for TB disease.

What happens when an ICE detainee has tuberculosis disease?

If you suspect any incarcerated person has TB, contact [our program](#) or your [local health department](#) for assistance. Contacting the health department promptly is even more important if the individual is an ICE detainee as they may otherwise be transferred and deported before TB can be adequately diagnosed. Interestingly, U.S. immigration laws have no provisions for health status with regard to removals which means ICE detainees may be deported no matter what their current health status is. Thus a detainee with TB disease, once they are deemed not contagious, may be released or deported even if TB treatment isn't finished. Without follow-up a detainee could then develop drug resistant TB and transmit this to others in their home country and the U.S. if they return. Fortunately, if there is enough time, ICE and the health department can coordinate follow-up TB care and treatment in the patient's home country through organizations such as [Cure TB](#). Another reason why prompt reporting is so essential! Click [here](#) more information on this topic.

Jail Rule Reminder

The Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) requiring inmate TB screening has been in effect for over a year, yet we still occasionally hear of a correctional facility that hasn't implemented screening. If this is you, do not despair! The rule can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Also available upon request is an algorithm which is designed to help you determine who needs to be screened. We are also happy to assist you with protocols, etc. Just give a call!

FAQ about jail rule: Are employees required to have a TB skin test upon hire?

The OAR does not require staff testing, although staff testing is recommended. However, there is an exception! All **healthcare workers (HCWs)** at any type of facility (hospital, clinic, nursing homes, etc.) are required to have a two step TB skin test or single blood test for latent TB infection upon hire. Annual testing is also advised for medical staff working in corrections. The OAR requiring this can be found by clicking [here](#). If you have questions, give a call!

The TB skin test is measured across the transverse of arm only.



PATIENT A

PATIENT A could be recorded as:

← **18 mm, positive**

PATIENT B could be recorded as:

8 mm, negative →

NOTE:

- Only measure and record the induration (raised surface)
- TB risk factors determine if the test is positive or negative. For example, if PATIENT B was HIV+ the test would be **8 mm, positive**



PATIENT B

Need more education on placing and reading TB skin tests? The CDC has a free DVD available that demonstrates placement and reading. It can be found by clicking [here](#).

TB Multilanguage Patient Education Material

Posters about TB symptoms in multiple languages and patient education materials about the link between smoking and TB are available upon request from our program. Both are colorful and available in multiple languages. Education about TB in an astonishing 17 different languages can be found [here](#).

TB Resources

- [Local Health Department](#)
- [TB Control, Oregon Health Authority](#)
- [Curry International TB Center](#)
- [Division of TB Elimination, CDC](#)

Tubersol and Isoniazid (INH) Shortages

There are national shortages of tubersol (for TB skin tests) and INH (used to treat latent TB infection and TB disease) which has impacted some areas in Oregon. For information on the shortage and how to proceed if either tubersol or INH are in short supply at your facility click [here](#).

Contact us!

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