

Active Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis Algorithm

Patient Symptoms:

Cough > 3 weeks
Fever
Night sweats
Weight loss
Hemoptysis

High Risk Population:

Immigrant
Aboriginal
Inner City
Elderly
Contact

Consider 1, 2 and 3 if Symptom and High Risk Population Suspicion is High

1. Chest x-ray indicative of TB*:

- Apicoposterior consolidation +/- cavitation
- Mediastinal or hilar lymphadenopathy
- Nodular changes, especially those consistent with endobronchial spread
- Pleural effusion

*If index of suspicion is high, proceed to 4 in spite of a typical chest x-ray

2. Inform Public Health Alberta Health Services (AHS) TB Services

3. Consider home or hospital isolation when:

- Patient has...
- Significant cough
 - Cavitary disease
 - High risk profession
 - Recent contact

4. Sputum X 3

- Spontaneous morning sputum or
- Induced sputum or
- Bronchoscopy

5. Sputum smear or culture positive for TB

6. TB services direction

7. Home or hospital isolation required x (minimum) 2 weeks with treatment

8. Consider discontinuation of home or hospital isolation when 3 sputa smear or culture negative



Toward
Optimized
Practice

The above recommendations are systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances. They should be used as an adjunct to sound clinical decision making.