

## Tuberculosis and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

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**Functional Sub group** Clinical/ Patient Services - Infectious diseases  
Population Health - Communicable Diseases

**Summary** All patients with tuberculosis must be assessed for HIV infection at the time of diagnosis. Patients with HIV infection should be assessed for the risk of tuberculosis at the time of diagnosis, and following any exposure to tuberculosis. Screening HIV infected people for TB identifies people with tuberculosis disease and those with latent tuberculosis infection. The risk of progression from latent tuberculosis infection to tuberculosis disease can be substantially reduced by preventive tuberculosis treatment.

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**Applies to** Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations - Non Declared, Affiliated Health Organisations - Declared, Public Health System Support Division, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

**Audience** Clinical/patient services, chest clinics, sexual health clinics

**Distributed to** Public Health System, Community Health Centres, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, NSW Department of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

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**Status** Active

### Director-General

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.

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## TUBERCULOSIS and HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) INFECTION

This Policy Directive is to be read in conjunction with NSW Health Department Policy Directives:

- PD2009\_005 Tuberculin Skin Testing
- PD2008\_017 Tuberculosis Contact Tracing
- PD2008\_019 Tuberculosis principles for management of people with tuberculosis in NSW
- PD2007\_036 Infection Control Policy
- PD2006\_035 HIV Antibody Testing by Laboratories in NSW
- PD2008\_033 Immunisation Services – Authority for Registered Nurses
- PD2006\_072 HIV/AIDS Strategy 2006-2009: Overview and Action Plan
- PD2005\_048 HIV Antibody Testing - Counselling - Guidelines
- PD2005\_071 Chemotherapy - TB
- PD2005\_072 Preventive Therapy - TB
- PD2005\_134 HIV Confidentiality: A Guide to Legal Requirements
- PD2005\_184 Contact Tracing Guidelines for the Sexually Transmissible Diseases and Blood Borne Viruses
- PD2005\_208 Bacille Calmette Guerin Vaccination

### PRINCIPLES

- All patients with tuberculosis (TB) must be offered an HIV antibody test, with appropriate pre-test discussion.
- Prior to undertaking an HIV test, informed consent must be obtained; this is usually gained as part of a pre-test discussion. Consent for testing must be obtained by the person performing the test. The pre-test discussion also incorporates an assessment of risk, an explanation of the testing process, as well as a discussion of the possible outcomes of the test.
- All patients with HIV infection should be assessed for the risk of TB at the time of diagnosis, and following any exposure to TB. The assessment includes a history of risk factors for TB infection or disease, and any prior treatment. Where a history or clinical assessment indicates risk factors for TB, the clinician should arrange - when clinically appropriate - a tuberculin skin test (unless evidence of a previous positive tuberculin skin test exists), chest x-ray, and if symptomatic, sputum microscopy and culture.

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- Screening HIV infected people for TB facilitates early treatment for disease or latent TB infection (LTBI). The risk of progression of LTBI to TB disease can be substantially reduced by preventive treatment for six months. People with HIV and LTBI co-infection should be offered preventive treatment for LTBI.
- Directly observed therapy (DOT) is required for all patients treated for active TB, but is not routinely required for patients on preventive treatment.
- In NSW, there is a network of service providers across the public health system that provides specialised screening, diagnostic, management, treatment and care services for people with TB. These services can be identified by contacting the Area Health Service Tuberculosis Coordinator or by viewing:  
[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/TB/chest\\_clinics.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/TB/chest_clinics.asp)

For background information for this Policy Directive, see tuberculosis and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Fact sheet at:  
[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/TB/TB\\_and\\_HIV\\_INFECT\\_ION.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/TB/TB_and_HIV_INFECT_ION.asp)

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