

# The Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment: A Tool for Identifying Populations at Increased Risk of TB

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March 21, 2019

# Disclosures

- I do not have any potential conflict of interest or financial interest to disclose.
- There is no endorsement by the Pennsylvania Department of Health of any commercial products discussed or displayed in conjunction with this educational activity.

# The Challenge

*"We need a new, expanded approach to eliminate TB in the United States. A major part of this approach is preventing people with latent TB infection from ever developing TB disease."*



Dr. Philip LoBue, Director of the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

# The Magnitude

- The CDC estimates that more than 13 million people in the U.S. have TB infection (TBI).
- That's about 1,300 people with TBI for every one case of TB disease.



# A Key Event

In September 2016, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended screening populations at increased risk for TBI.

## Latent Tuberculosis Infection: Screening

Release Date: September 2016

### Recommendation Summary

Population	Recommendation	Grade (What's This?)
Asymptomatic adults at increased risk for infection	The USPSTF recommends screening for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in populations at increased risk.	<b>B</b>

# Screening Recommendations

The USPSTF recommends testing the following populations who are at increased risk of TBI:

- Persons who were born in, lived in or frequently travel to countries where TB is common; and
- Persons who currently, or used to, live in large congregate settings such as nursing homes, homeless shelters, or correctional facilities.

Source: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2547761>

# Screening Recommendations (Cont'd)

In addition, the CDC recommends testing:

- Health care workers and others who work in places at high risk of TB transmission;
- Someone who has been in close contact with a case of infectious TB; and
- Persons with a weakened immune system

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/ltrbi/pdf/CDC-USPSTF-LTBI-Testing-Treatment-Recommendations-508.pdf>

# The Constraint

Traditionally, state and local **public health** departments have led TB prevention and control efforts, but many people who need testing and treatment for TBI receive care from **private** health care providers and community health centers.



# Project Objective

Develop an accessible, easy-to-use tool to help public and private health care providers identify people at increased risk of TBI.



# TB Risk Assessment Tool



## Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment - Adults

- Use this tool to identify asymptomatic **adults** for TB testing.
- **Do not repeat TB testing** unless there are **new** risk factors since the last test.
- Do not treat for TB infection until a diagnosis of active TB disease has been excluded:
  - For patients with TB symptoms or an abnormal chest x-ray consistent with active TB disease, evaluate for active TB disease with a chest x-ray, symptom screen, and – if indicated – sputum AFB smears, cultures and nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT). A negative interferon gamma release assay or tuberculin skin test does not rule out active TB disease.

TB testing is recommended if any of the 3 boxes below are checked.

**Birth, travel or residence** in a country with an elevated TB rate for at least a month

- Includes any country **other than** the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or a country in western or northern Europe.
- If resources require prioritization within this group, **prioritize** those patients with at least one medical risk for progression to TB disease (see the Pennsylvania Adult TB Risk Assessment User Guide for a list).
- An interferon gamma release assay test is preferred over a tuberculin skin test for non-U.S. born persons 2 years of age or older.

**Immunosuppression, current or planned**

Examples include HIV infection, organ transplant recipient or treatment with a TNF-alpha antagonist (e.g., infliximab, etanercept, others), steroids (equivalent to a prednisone dose of 15 mg/day for one month or longer), or other immunosuppressive medication.

**Close contact** to someone with infectious TB disease during lifetime

If TB test is positive, rule out active TB disease before diagnosing TB infection.

**No risk factors identified;** TB testing is not indicated at this time

Provider: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Desired Outcome

Increased testing of persons at risk of TBI and treatment of those infected

**TAKE ON  
LATENT TB  
INFECTION** Eliminating tuberculosis (TB)  
requires expanding testing &  
treatment of latent TB infection.

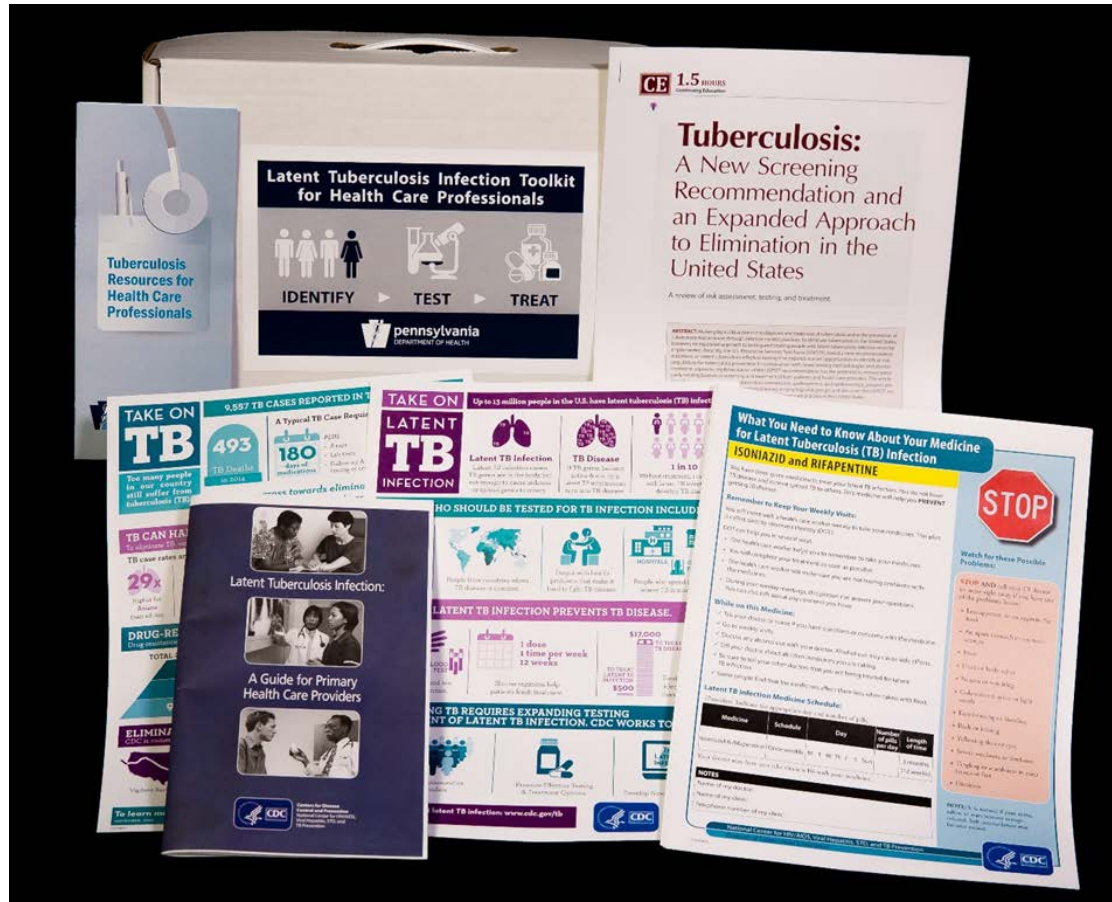


**CDC works to engage affected  
communities & medical providers.**

[www.cdc.gov/tb](http://www.cdc.gov/tb)



# LTBI Toolkit



To order, call the TB program at (717) 787-6267

# Toolkit Components

- Letter from the Pennsylvania TB Controller
- “Think TB ... Test for TB” postcard
- TB resources pamphlet
- CDC Factsheets
  - Information for health care professionals
  - Counseling tools for use with patients
- Professional education materials

# Professional Education Materials

- LTBI: A Guide for Primary Health Care Providers<sup>1</sup>
- TB: A New Screening Recommendation and an Expanded Approach to Elimination in the United States (American Journal of Nursing; August 2017)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/litbi/pdf/TargetedLTBI.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2017/08000/CE\\_Tuberculosis\\_A\\_New\\_Screening\\_Recommendation.24.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2017/08000/CE_Tuberculosis_A_New_Screening_Recommendation.24.aspx)

# Questions or Comments?



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