

## Latent Tuberculosis Infection Referral Information (3/08)

**Please refer all patients with a positive (> 00mm ) tuberculin skin test (TST, also known as PPD) to the Grant County Health District (GCHD).**

1. Faxing the referral form to 509-766-6519 is the preferred route of notification for clients who do not have symptoms suggestive of active disease. Please call 509-766-7960 immediately if the patient has such symptoms
2. Please inform the patient of the importance of having Dr. Brzezny, MD, Grant County Health Officer, evaluate their tuberculosis (TB) status.
3. Providing the patient with a Health District clinic schedule may be helpful at this time.
4. If the client does not come to one of our clinics after we have received your referral, we will contact them.

**The Health Officer will evaluate the client's tuberculosis status based on a detailed health history obtained by public health staff at our TB clinic and chest x-ray(s).** The Health District will provide a voucher for the x-ray. The Health District will handle billing and payment issues for those patients who DO NOT have 3<sup>rd</sup> party payer coverage.

1. A single PA view is sufficient if the patient is asymptomatic AND over the age of 15.
2. A 2-view is appropriate for the following:
  - Symptoms are present
  - Age 15 or younger

The Health Officer will make recommendations as the evaluation is completed; these will be faxed to the representative of the patient's healthcare provider.

Patients diagnosed with a class 1, 3, 4, or 5 will be case-managed by the Health District, working cooperatively with the healthcare provider.

**Patients with a class diagnosis of 2 (latent TB infection or LTBI) will be referred back to their health care provider, for treatment of LTBI.** GCHD will contact the healthcare provider or appropriate representative regarding the patient's follow-up. The GCHD's "Protocol and Standing Orders for Evaluation and Management of Tuberculosis Infection and Disease" provides approved guidelines for the management of TB patients, including medications and dosages, recommended laboratory testing, etc.

Patients with latent TB infection should be seen monthly during the course of their treatment for an office visit and lab work if needed. Symptoms should be reviewed that may indicate disease or medication side effects.

**A GCHD staff person will communicate by phone or in person, on a regular basis with an appropriate contact person from the healthcare provider's office, to discuss the patient's course of treatment.** Additionally GCHD will answer any questions or discuss issues that the healthcare provider may have.

**When treatment is completed, the healthcare provider's office will contact GCHD to inform them of completion of treatment.** At that time a summary card will be sent to the patient and a copy to the provider.

**GCHD will contact any patient who has not been complied with the treatment recommendations, to consider strategies to attain compliance, or to approach case closure.**

**GCHD requests that the healthcare providers providing treatment for LTBI cases participate in evaluation activities, at appropriate intervals.**