Transfer Notifications

CONTENTS

Introduction

Purpose

Use this section to do the following:

- Notify public health agency staff in another jurisdiction that a person is moving (or has moved) to their jurisdiction who is any of the following:

  - Verified or suspected case of tuberculosis (TB) disease

  - High-priority contact to a smear-positive Class 3 or Class 5 pulmonary case, contact to a smear-negative Class 3 pulmonary case, or contact to a highly suspect Class 5 pulmonary case

  - Documented convertor who has initiated treatment for tuberculosis infection (TBI)

  - Class 2 or Class 4 patient who has initiated treatment for TBI

  - Close associate to a Class 3 index case with clinical presentation consistent with recently acquired disease in a source-case investigation or close associate to a child with TBI in a source-case investigation

- Follow up on notifications.

- Make CURE-TB referrals for TB patients and contacts that move between the United States and Mexico.

- Enroll mobile TB patients in the TBNet tracking and referral service.

Making sure that TB patients complete their evaluation and treatment is a critical element of TB control.[1] Some patients receiving treatment for TB disease in the United States move from one jurisdiction to another before completing treatment. Notifying the receiving local and/or state jurisdiction of a patient's impending arrival will prevent interrupted treatment and improve public health outcomes.

The term *transfer notification* refers to a referral or follow-up report. Before the patient moves, or as soon as it becomes apparent that a patient has moved, the referring jurisdiction provides a referral to the receiving jurisdiction. After the patient has moved, the receiving jurisdiction then provides the referring jurisdiction with a follow-up report.

Policy

The Ohio Department of Health TB Program is responsible for the coordination of transfer notifications between states and other local jurisdictions within the state. The local public health jurisdiction should notify the ODH TB Program when a patient plans or requests to transfer to another jurisdiction. The receiving and referring jurisdictions should stay in communication until final dispensation of the patient is known.

When to Initiate a Notification

For a definition of tuberculosis (TB) patient classifications, see the "Tuberculosis Classification System" topic in the Diagnosis of Tuberculosis Disease section.

Table 1: **TRANSFER NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UPS**[2]

Referral Type	When to Initiate	Notes
Verified and suspected cases of tuberculosis (TB) disease	When notified that a Class 3 or 5 patient is moving or has moved from the area for 30 days or more	May also initiate to coordinate directly observed therapy (DOT) while patient is visiting another area.
Contacts	After identifying a: ▪ High-priority contact to a smear-positive Class 3 or Class 5 pulmonary case ▪ Contact to a smear-negative Class 3 pulmonary case ▪ Contact to a highly suspect Class 5 pulmonary case	Send individual referrals for each contact.
Source case investigation for TB disease	After identifying a close associate to a Class 3 index case with clinical presentation consistent with recently acquired disease	Use primarily for associates to children under 5 years of age with TB disease. A younger age cut-off may be advisable because the focus would be on more recent transmission.[3]
Source case investigation for TBI	After identifying a close associate to a child with TBI	Use primarily for associates to children under 2 years of age with TBI.[4]
Final disposition	When final status and/or outcome is known	

Source: NTCA. *Interjurisdictional Tuberculosis (TB) Notification—National Tuberculosis Controllers Association Recommendations.* Smyrna, GA: March 2002:1–5.

How to Issue a Notification

Inside the United States (within the state or between states), see Table 2: **Referrals in the United States**.

Outside the United States, contact the Ohio TB Program at (614) 466-2381. The Ohio TB Program will work with the country impacted to report the case.

Transfers Inside the United States

Transfers Within Ohio: Refer to the middle column in Table 2: **Referrals in the United States.**

Transfers Between States: An interjurisdictional tuberculosis (TB) notification system has been set up by the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA) to facilitate and standardize communication between states. This system will enhance continuity and completeness of care and improve outcome evaluation of verified cases.[5] Refer to the right column in Table 2: **Referrals in the United States.**

Local health jurisdictions should take the following steps to send a referral to notify another jurisdiction to which a patient has moved or another jurisdiction in which a contact/associate is identified.

Table 2: **REFERRALS IN THE UNITED STATES**[6]

Action	Transfers Within Ohio	Transfers Between States
Make a referral	The public health agency from which the patient is transferring should do the following as soon as possible: ▪ Call the ODH TB Program at (614) 466-2381 ▪ Copy the updated, complete local public health file on the patient, and send the copy to the jurisdiction receiving the patient ▪ Call the patient's private provider and arrange for transfer of the patient's records to the receiving physician (or to the jurisdiction receiving the patient if no receiving physician is designated)	The public health agency from which the patient is transferring should do the following as soon as possible: ▪ Call the ODH TB Program at (614) 466-2381 ▪ Fill out the NTCA's "Interjurisdictional Tuberculosis Notification" form* ▪ Fax the form to the ODH TB Program at : • Fax: (614) 387-2132 • If more information is needed, the ODH TB Program will request it from the public health agency from which the patient is transferring

Action	Transfers Within Ohio	Transfers Between States
Provide records to the patient	The public health agency from which the patient is transferring should provide the patient a copy of the treatment records	The public health agency from which the patient is transferring should provide the patient a copy of the referral and treatment records
Follow up on referrals	Not necessary	Complete the NTCA's "Interjurisdictional TB Follow-Up" form[†]

* The NTCA's "Interjurisdictional Tuberculosis Notification" form is available online at this hyperlink: http://tbcontrollers.org/docs/IJ_Form_Page1.pdf .

[†] NTCA's "Interjurisdictional TB Notification Follow-Up" form is available online at this hyperlink: http://tbcontrollers.org/docs/IJ_Form_Page2_Followup.pdf .

Source: NTCA. *Interjurisdictional Tuberculosis (TB) Notification–National Tuberculosis Controllers Association Recommendations.* Smyrna, GA: March 2002:1–5.

For more information on completing the NTCA forms, see the NTCA's *Interjurisdictional Tuberculosis (TB) Notification—National Tuberculosis Controllers Association Recommendations* (NTCA Web site; March 2002) at this hyperlink: http://tbcontrollers.org/docs/IJ_Instructions.pdf .

Transfers Outside the United States

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
International Notifications

The ODH TB Program is responsible for international transfer notifications. The local health jurisdiction should notify the state health department when a patient moves outside the country.

> Local healthcare agency staff: The information below is provided for your information only. State program staff will fill out these forms.

The notification process for international TB cases developed by the CDC is briefly described on the "Process for International Notification of TB Cases" Web page at this hyperlink: http://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/international/default.htm

In Ohio, send these referrals directly to the ODH TB Program as soon as possible after receiving information about the patient's move or identifying a contact/associate.

To initiate an international referral through ODH:

1. Complete the International Tuberculosis Notification Form: http://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/international/default.htm .

2. Forward a copy of the notification by fax to the ODH TB Program

3. Provide the patient with the following:

    a. A copy of the referral and treatment records

    b. A 30-day supply of medications (if allowed by local statutes)

CURE-TB: Transfers to Mexico

CURE-TB (http://www.curetb.org) is a referral program based at the San Diego County, CA Health Department. CURE-TB specializes in ensuring continuity of care for TB patients and their contacts moving between the United States and Mexico. This program provides direct guidance to patients and facilitates the exchange of information between providers in both countries. Services are available to patients and providers all over the United States and Mexico.[7]

Referrals accepted by the CURE-TB program include the following:

- **Patients** with suspected or confirmed TB disease who are moving or spending more than one month in Mexico

- **Contacts who move** between the United States and Mexico

- **Contacts living in Mexico** who have been exposed to a confirmed case living in the United States

- **Source case finding** for an index case in the United States when there is reasonable suspicion of TB disease in a person living in Mexico

- **Requests for a patient's clinical history** while living in Mexico, if sufficient locating information regarding the Mexican provider is supplied

Upon notification by a local jurisdiction, the ODH TB Program initiates a CURE-TB referral as soon as possible. Receiving information about the patient's move or identifying a contact/associate.

To make a CURE-TB referral:

1. Complete the CURE-TB Referral Form: http://www2.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/documents/BinationalReferralForm111.pdf .

   a. Forward a copy of the referral form by fax to the ODH TB Program.

   b. The ODH TB Program will issue a Binational Health Card for each patient containing a brief summary of TB treatment in both English and Spanish

   c. The Binational Card will be forwarded to the local health jurisdiction via traceable mail

2. Provide the patient with the following:

    a. The Binational Card should be issued to the client prior to departure.

    b. A copy of the referral and treatment records

    c. A 30-day supply of medications

TBNet: International Transfers in Mobile, Underserved Populations

TBNet (http://www.migrantclinician.org/services/network/tbnet.html) is a multinational TB patient tracking and referral project for mobile, underserved populations. Although the program was originally created for migrant farm workers, it is expanding to include any patient who might be mobile during their treatment, such as the homeless, immigration detainees, or prison parolees.[8]

TBNet offers the following services:

- **Portable, wallet-sized treatment records.** TBNet supplies TB clinics with records that summarize a patient's TB treatment and can easily be carried by the patient.

- **Toll-free line (1-800-825-8205) for healthcare providers and patients.** Healthcare providers from the United States or Mexico can call to request an up-to-date copy of medical records of patients enrolled in TBNet. Patients can call for help with locating treatment facilities at their next destination.

Upon notification by the local health jurisdiction, the ODH TB Program initiates a TBNet referral as soon as possible.

To enroll a patient in TBNet:

1. Call the ODH TB Program, at (614) 466-2381 to begin the referral process.

2. Complete the TBNet Patient History and Brief Medical Information Form: http://www.migrantclinician.org/files/resourcebox/TBNet_Pt_History___Med_Info.pdf

3. Fax the form and copies of the chest radiograph and all laboratory reports to the ODH TB Program at (614) 387-2132

4. Provide the patient with the portable, wallet-sized treatment record and TBNet's toll free number (1-800-825-8205).

References

[1] CDC. International notification of tuberculosis cases [Division of Tuberculosis Elimination Web site]. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/international/default.htm. Accessed June 30, 2008.

[2] NTCA. *Interjurisdictional Resources* [NTCA Web site]. Available at: http://www.tbcontrollers.org/resources/interjurisdictional-transfers/#.UnlDYzMo7cs. Accessed June 30, 2008.

[3] CDC, NTCA. Guidelines for the investigation of contacts of persons with infectious tuberculosis; recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC, and guidelines for using the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold test for detecting *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection, United States. *MMWR* 2005;54(No. RR-15):31.

[4] CDC, NTCA. Guidelines for the investigation of contacts of persons with infectious tuberculosis; recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC, and guidelines for using the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold test for detecting *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection, United States. *MMWR* 2005;54(No. RR-15):31.

[5] NTCA. *Interjurisdictional Resources* [NTCA Web site]. Available at: http://www.tbcontrollers.org/resources/interjurisdictional-transfers/#.UnlDYzMo7cs. Accessed June 30, 2008.

[6] NTCA. *Interjurisdictional Resources* [NTCA Web site]. Available at: http://www.tbcontrollers.org/resources/interjurisdictional-transfers/#.UnlDYzMo7cs. Accessed June 30, 2008.