

Tuberculosis (TB) Post Treatment Plan for Drug-Resistant TB

Drug-Resistant TB can be more difficult to treat. As a patient, it is important to understand the process we use to make sure that the TB has been completely treated.

Why is drug resistant TB harder to treat?

Some of the bacteria that cause TB have changed so that the usual medicines we use to treat TB don't work as well, this is called drug-resistant TB. When this happens, we must use other medicines to treat the TB bacteria. It is important to make sure the new medicine has worked and the TB doesn't come back. We do this through post-treatment plans for people who had drug-resistant TB.



What happens during the post-treatment plan?

A nurse from your local health department will continue to work with you for 24 months after you have finished treatment for your TB. During this time, they will check on you to see how you are feeling and collect nine additional sputum specimens for testing. They will also make sure that you are getting the correct medical screenings at the correct times to make sure the TB bacteria has not begun to grow again. The chart below lists the timing for each activity during your post-treatment plan.

Follow-up Date	Months Post-Treatment	Evaluation Activities			
		Sputum Collection	Symptom Review	Medical Evaluation	Chest X-Ray
	End of Treatment	X	X		X
	1		X		
	2		X		
	3	X	X	X	
	6	X	X	X	X
	9	X	X	X	
	12	X	X	X	X
	15	X	X	X	
	18	X	X	X	
	21	X	X	X	
	24	X	X	X	X



What you should do during your post-treatment plan

During your post-treatment plan for drug resistant TB, you should inform the nurse working with you or the local health department right away if you feel unwell or have symptoms of TB infection. Symptoms can include:

- A bad cough
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood or phlegm
- Weakness or fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss
- No appetite
- Chills
- Fever
- Sweating at night

Local health department: _____

Nurse: _____

Phone number: _____

You will see a doctor for a medical evaluation several times during your post-treatment plan. Your medical evaluation appointments will be at:

Clinic name: _____

Phone number: _____

It is important for you to attend any scheduled appointments with the nurse for sputum collection and symptom evaluation, as well as appointments with the clinic for medical evaluation and chest x-rays during your post-treatment plan.

This allows us to learn if the TB bacteria have begun to grow again as early as possible, and the doctor can start treatment to stop the infection from getting worse.



Financial Assistance

If you experience a financial hardship due to your TB treatment, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services TB Program offers the Wisconsin TB Assistance Program for medical service costs.

This program is designed to encourage and support people through the end of their treatment for TB.

Please talk to your public health nurse for more information about this assistance program.

