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2007 Canadian TB Standards, 6th Edition

The new 2007 Canadian TB Standards have been released and are available at the link below. These standards provide direction to TB prevention and control in Canada.

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tbpc-latb/pubs/tbstand07-eng.php>

Role of the Physician in TB Management

- Screen individuals at increased risk for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI)
- Administer TB skin tests
- Report all individuals infected with TB including LTBI and suspect, clinical and active cases of TB disease
- Treat all individuals with LTBI, particularly those with medical risk factors that increase the likelihood of progression to TB disease, unless medically contraindicated

Think TB when individuals present with fever, prolonged cough, night sweats, weakness, fatigue, and weight loss.

Populations most at risk include:

- Case contacts of active TB disease, particularly children under 6 yrs of age
- Immunosuppressed patients (e.g. HIV/AIDS, corticosteroid use, renal disease, cancer)
- Foreign-born or history of extended travel to a TB endemic country
- Aboriginal population
- The homeless
- Occupational exposure (e.g. staff of health care and correctional facilities)

- Children under 15 yrs of age who have lived in or travelled to a TB endemic country
- Previous history of inadequately treated TB disease with abnormal chest x-ray



New and Improved TB Reporting Forms

By law, a positive TB skin test must be reported to Peel Public Health.

To facilitate easy reporting, Peel Public Health has created two forms for physicians to complete:

- The **Reporting Positive Skin Test and TB Drug Order form** (attached) has been revised and simplified for easier reporting and drug ordering
- The **new Tuberculosis Assessment Referral form** (attached) should be completed when referring patients to a specialist. Peel Public Health strongly recommends referral to a specialist for :
 - assessment of LTBI treatment in complex cases
 - suspect Active TB disease

The following are available on our website:

- TB Reporting and Referral forms (See above)
- Legislated TB reporting requirement HPPA Section 25 & 26
- Link to 2007 Canadian TB Standards
- Previous Health Professionals Updates

To access these resources, visit:

www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/