Clinic Visits from TB Patients –
Hierarchy of Controls
Biological Safety/OESO/DUHS 2/2016
Side 1

Clinic Equipped for TB Patients?(1)

Yes

Patient with Suspected or Known TB?

No

Yes

Does Patient Exhibit Signs and Symptoms of TB?

No

Yes

Can Patient Wear Surgical Mask During Entire Visit?

No Special Precautions are Required

Yes

Can Visit Be Delayed?

No

Yes

Can Patient Wear Surgical Mask During Entire Visit?

Use General TB Precautions (4)

No

Use Full TB Precautions (3)

Reschedule

Yes

Use Full TB Precautions (3)

Use General TB Precautions (4)

No

Patient with Suspected or Known TB?

Is Patient Still Considered Infectious?(2)

No

Yes

Does Patient Exhibit Signs and Symptoms of TB?

No

Yes

Can Patient Wear Surgical Mask During Entire Visit?

Use General TB Precautions (4)

No

Use Full TB Precautions (3)

Reschedule

Yes

Use Full TB Precautions (3)

Use General TB Precautions (4)

No

See Other Side

(1) Fit-Tested Employees or PAPRs and Airborne Infection Isolation (AII) Rooms or portable HEPAs available. (All clinics in Duke Clinic)

(2) Noninfectious is: 2 negative sputum smears (collected at least 8 hours apart, collected after 14 days of treatment, and the last positive collected at least 7 days before the 2 negative sputum smears); patient is clinically improving; and is on drug therapy for 2 weeks.

(3) In an emergency with an unmasked patient a N95 respirator is acceptable temporary protection whether the employee is fit-tested or not.

(4) If collecting sputum “Use Full TB Precautions”.

Full TB Precautions in addition to General TB Precautions:

- The employee wears respiratory protection (a N95 respirator that they have been fit-tested for or a PAPR unit).
- Patient is placed in All room or into exam room with portable HEPA unit (follow instructions posted on unit for use and for ventilation after the patient vacates). Patient may remove surgical mask for exam/procedure.
- Place an All sign on the door during patient visit and until the room has been ventilated for 30 minutes.
- High-hazard procedures (e.g., sputum collection/induction, bronchoscopy) must be performed in a negative pressure All room (bronchoscopy suites, Advanced Therapeutics Clinic, or designated inpatient hospital rooms).

General TB Precautions:

- Schedule visit when the patient will not have to wait, and when the fewest other patients are scheduled.
- Instruct the patient to wear a surgical mask when entering the building and keep it on during the entire visit. Respiratory protection is not needed for the employee.
- Place the patient directly into an exam room and close the door.
- Routine procedures are used to clean the exam rooms vacated by TB patients wearing a surgical mask.
Clinic Visits from TB Patients –
Hierarchy of Controls
Biological Safety/OESO/DUHS 2/2016
Side 2

Clinic Equipped for TB Patients?(1) Yes → See Other Side

Is the Patient in the Clinic?

Patient with Suspected or Known TB?

While in the Clinic Does Patient Exhibit Signs and Symptoms of TB?

Can Patient Exhibit Signs and Symptoms of TB?

Can Patient Be Referred to the Health Department, an Equipped Clinic or the ED?

Reschedule Visit

Can Visit Be Delayed?

Can Patient Be Referred to an Equipped Clinic?

Place Surgical Mask on Patient ASAP and Transfer Patient

Can Patient Wear Surgical Mask During Entire Visit?

Use General TB Precautions (4)

Place Surgical Mask or Other Barrier on Patient ASAP and Remove Patient from Clinic (3)

General TB Precautions (all off-site clinics):
- Schedule visit when the patient will not have to wait, and when the fewest other patients are scheduled.
- Instruct the patient to wear a surgical mask when entering the building and keep it on during the entire visit. Respiratory protection is not needed for the employee.
- Place the patient directly into an exam room and close the door.
- Routine procedures are used to clean the exam rooms vacated by TB patients wearing a surgical mask.

(1) Fit-Tested Employees or PAPRs and All rooms or portable HEPA units available. (All clinics in Duke Clinic)
(2) Noninfectious is: 2 negative sputum smears (collected at least 8 hours apart, collected after 14 days of treatment, and the last positive collected at least 7 days before the 2 negative sputum smears); patient is clinically improving; and is on drug therapy for 2 weeks.
(3) In an emergency with an unmasked patient a N95 respirator is acceptable temporary protection whether the employee is fit-tested or not.
(4) Sputum is collected using “Full TB Precautions” at an Equipped Clinic.