Clinic Visits from TB Patients – Hierarchy of Controls

Biological Safety/OESO/DUHS 3/2018
Side 1

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

Is Patient Still Considered Infectious?(2)

Yes → Can Visit Be Delayed?

Yes → Reschedule

No → Can Patient Wear Surgical Mask During Entire Visit?

Yes → Use General TB Precautions (4)

No → Use Full TB Precautions (3)

Patient with Suspected or Known TB?

No → Does Patient Exhibit Signs and Symptoms of TB?

Yes → Can Patient Wear Surgical Mask During Entire Visit?

Yes → Use General TB Precautions (4)

No → Use Full TB Precautions (3)

No → No Special Precautions are Required

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

(2) Noninfectious is: 3 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 3 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.
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Biological Safety/OESO/DUHS 3/2018
Side 2

- Is Patient Still Considered Infectious? (2)
  - No: Can Visit Be Delayed?
  - Yes: Can Patient be Referred to an Equipped Clinic?

- Is the Patient in the Clinic?
  - Yes: Can Patient Wear Surgical Mask During Entire Visit?
  - No: Place Surgical Mask on Patient ASAP and Transfer Patient

- Can Patient Be Referred to the Health Department, an Equipped Clinic or the ED?
  - Yes: Refer Patient and Instruct Patient to Wear Surgical Mask
  - No: Use General TB Precautions (4)

- Place Surgical Mask on Patient ASAP and Transfer Patient

- Can Patient Wear Surgical Mask During Entire Visit?
  - Yes: Refer Patient to ED and Instruct Patient to Wear Surgical Mask
  - No: Place Surgical Mask or Other Barrier on Patient ASAP and Remove Patient from Clinic (3)

- Use General TB Precautions (4)

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.

- Can Patient Be Referred to an Equipped Clinic?
  - Yes: Place Surgical Mask on Patient ASAP and Transfer Patient
  - No: Place Surgical Mask or Other Barrier on Patient ASAP and Remove Patient from Clinic (3)

- While in the Clinic Does Patient Exhibit Signs and Symptoms of TB?
  - Yes: Place Surgical Mask or Other Barrier on Patient ASAP and Remove Patient from Clinic (3)
  - No: See Other Side

- While in the Clinic Does Patient Exhibit Signs and Symptoms of TB?
  - Yes: Place Surgical Mask or Other Barrier on Patient ASAP and Remove Patient from Clinic (3)
  - No: Use General TB Precautions (4)

- Place Surgical Mask on Patient ASAP and Transfer Patient

(1) Fit-Tested Employees or PAPRs and All rooms or portable HEPA units available. (All clinics in Duke Clinic)
(2) Noninfectious is: 3 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 3 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.