Infectious (1) TB Patient Coming to the Clinic and the Visit Cannot be Delayed?

- Instruct pulmonary TB patient to wear a surgical mask when entering the building and keep it on during the entire visit. (2)
- Schedule visit when the patient will not have to wait, and when the fewest other patients are scheduled. (3)
- Place patient directly into an exam room and keep the door closed as much as possible. (4)

Patient in the Clinic has Signs and Symptoms of Active Pulmonary TB?

Place Surgical Mask on Patient ASAP and Place Patient Directly into an Exam Room and Close the Door (3) (4)

Contact Health Department in Patient’s County of Residence to Determine Plan of Care

(1) Pulmonary TB – Smear positive patients are infectious. Noninfectious is: 2 negative sputum smears (collected at least 8 hours apart; patient is clinically improving; and is on effective drug therapy for 2 weeks). Confer with Health Department in patient’s county of residence to determine this.

- Wounds or Open Draining Lesions – Unhealed wounds and lesions are infectious and must be completely covered. Irrigation of unhealed wounds or lesions will produce infectious aerosols and airborne precautions must be taken. Noninfectious is: The patient has been on effective anti-tuberculosis treatment for at least 2 weeks and the wound or lesion is healed.

(2) Respiratory protection is not needed for the employee if the patient is wearing a surgical mask. In an emergency with an unmasked patient a N95 respirator is acceptable temporary protection whether the employee is fit-tested or not.

(3) If the exam room is an “Airborne Infection Isolation (AII) Room” perform the tissue test and document results. If the exam room is not an AII room use a portable HEPA if available.

(4) After discharge, if the patient wore a surgical mask, routine procedures are used to clean the exam room. If the patient did not wear a surgical mask, the room must sit empty with the door closed 30 minutes for AII rooms or rooms that used a portable HEPA, and 60 minutes for other exam rooms. Do not enter the exam room during this time without respiratory protection.