



सत्यमेव जयते



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Subject: Guidance for Certifying TB Patients as Non-Infectious -reg.

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to pose a significant public health challenge globally and particularly in high-burden countries such as India. While TB is a curable disease, it remains infectious in its active phase—especially when pulmonary in nature.

Despite the existence of the Policy Framework for TB Patients at the Workplace (developed by the Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment) and the TB-Free Workplace Guidelines, many TB patients continue to face job loss and wage disruption. This is primarily due to the prolonged duration of treatment and prevailing concerns among employers regarding fear of potential infection transmission by TB patients in the workplace.

To address this, a consultation was held with TB experts to develop a standardized set of criteria for certifying TB patients on treatment as non-infectious. This certification aims to enable the safe and timely return of TB patients to their workplaces, upholding both the rights of individuals and workplace safety.

The guidance has been designed to assist treating clinicians in making evidence-based assessments—incorporating clinical, radiological, and laboratory parameters—to certify when a TB patient is no longer infectious. The guidance is annexed.

I request you to kindly disseminate this guidance widely across your State/UT, particularly to all physicians and health facilities involved in TB care under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). This step is crucial in reducing stigma, supporting the economic well-being of TB patients, and ensuring adherence to human rights-based approaches in TB care.

Your continued support in strengthening patient-centric TB services is deeply appreciated.

Encl: As Above.

(Dr. Sanjay K Mattoo)

To

- All State Tuberculosis Officers- States/UTs
- All Medical Associations Bodies

CC:

- All Central TB Division officers
- All GOI WHO TB Consultants
- All CTD Consultants

टीबी हारेगा, देश जीतेगा / TB Harega, Desh Jeetega

Guidance for Certifying TB Patients as Non-Infective

1. Drug-Sensitive (DS) TB & INH mono/poly resistance (H mono/poly) TB

a) ***Non-extensive, non-cavitary pulmonary TB*** may be declared as non-infective under opinion of treating physician with following conditions-

- After 02-03 weeks of regular treatment as per standard care of the regimen under NTEP guidelines &
- With compliance/adherence to daily drug consumption &
- Two consecutive AFB smear-negative results in sputum samples collected 07 days apart (*In case any of the sample is positive, then before declaring a PwTB as non-infectious, again two consecutive samples collected at least 7 days apart has to be negative for AFB*) &
- With evidence of clinical improvement & no radiological deterioration

b) ***Bilateral, extensive, cavitary pulmonary TB*** may be declared as non-infective under opinion of treating physician with following conditions-

- After 04-05 weeks of regular treatment as per standard care of the regimen under NTEP guidelines &
- With compliance/adherence to daily drug consumption &
- Two consecutive AFB smear-negative results in sputum samples collected 07 days apart (*In case any of the sample is positive then before declaring a PwTB as non-infectious, again two consecutive samples collected at least 7 days apart has to be negative for AFB*) &
- With evidence of clinical improvement & no radiological deterioration

2. Drug-Resistant TB (DR-TB):

a) ***With BPALM / Shorter Oral Regimen:*** may be declared as non-infective under opinion of treating physician with following conditions-

- After 09 weeks of regular treatment as per standard care of the regimen under NTEP guidelines &
- With compliance/adherence to daily drug consumption &
- Three consecutive AFB smear-negative results in sputum samples collected 07 days apart (*In case any of the sample is positive then before declaring a PwTB as non-infectious, again three consecutive samples collected at least 7 days apart has to be negative for AFB*) &
- With evidence of clinical improvement & no radiological deterioration

b) With All Oral Longer Regimen: may be declared as non-infective under opinion of treating physician with following conditions-

- After 03 months of regular treatment as per standard care of the regimen under NTEP guidelines &
- With compliance/adherence to daily drug consumption &
- Three consecutive AFB smear-negative results in sputum samples collected 07 days apart (*In case any of the sample is positive then before declaring a PwTB as non-infectious, again three consecutive samples collected atleast 7 days apart has to be negative for AFB*) &
- With evidence of clinical improvement & no radiological deterioration

3. For Extra-pulmonary TB cases (DS or DR TB)

- If it is Extra Pulmonary TB with Pulmonary TB, then criteria may be followed as per type of Pulmonary TB mentioned in Point 1 & 2
- EPTB without Pulmonary TB may be declared as non-infective as per decision of respective treating specialist.

The patient should be counselled properly to follow appropriate cough etiquette and consume nutritious food in addition to medicines as prescribed, and for timely follow-up as guided by the treating physician throughout the treatment duration and for 06 monthly follow-ups for 2 years after completion of the treatment.