

WHO Policy Recommendations

Set of Activities for National and Sub-national TB Infection Control

Managerial Activities:

The national and sub-national managerial activities listed below provide the managerial framework for the implementation of TB-IC in healthcare facilities, congregate settings and households.

1. Identify and strengthen a coordinating body for TB-IC, and develop a comprehensive budgeted plan that includes human resource requirements for implementation of TB-IC at all levels.
2. Ensure that health facility design, construction, renovation and use are appropriate.
3. Conduct surveillance of TB disease among health workers and conduct assessment at all levels of the health system and in congregate settings.
4. Address TB-IC advocacy, communication and social mobilization (ACSM), including engagement of civil society.
5. Monitor and evaluate the set of TB-IC measures.
6. Enable and conduct operational research.

Set of Measures for Facility-level TB Infection Control

The measures listed below are specific to healthcare facilities. More details on congregate settings and households are given in Part 6 and 7, respectively.

Facility-level Measures

7. Implement the set of facility-level managerial activities:
 - a. Identify and strengthen local coordinating bodies for TB-IC and develop a facility plan (including human resources, policies and procedures to ensure the proper implementation of the controls listed below) for implementation.
 - b. Rethink the use of available spaces and consider renovation of existing facilities or construction of new ones to optimize implementation of controls.
 - c. Conduct on-site surveillance of TB disease among HCWs and assess the facility.
 - d. Address advocacy, communication and social mobilization (ACSM) for health workers, patients and visitors.
 - e. Monitor and evaluate the set of TB-IC measures.
 - f. Participate in research efforts.

Administrative Controls

8. Promptly identify people with TB symptoms (triage), separate infectious patients, control the spread of pathogens (cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene) and minimize time spent in healthcare facilities.
9. Provide a package of prevention and care interventions for staff, including HIV prevention, ART and IPT) for HIV-positive staff.

The administrative controls include (in addition to the items listed above) reduction of diagnostic delays, use of rapid diagnostic tests, reduction of turnaround time for sputum testing and culture, and prompt initiation of treatment.

Environmental Controls

10. Use ventilation systems.
11. Use ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) fixtures, at least when adequate ventilation cannot be achieved.

Personal Protective Equipment

12. Use particulate respirators.