

Resources Provided to State-Funded Tuberculosis Programs

Tuberculosis and Hansen's Disease Unit

The mission of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Tuberculosis and Hansen's Disease Unit (TB Unit) is to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) as a public health threat.

To support statewide efforts in fulfilling this mission, the TB Unit provides the following resources at no additional cost to local and regional TB programs:

Accurint

Accurint is a database that allows regional and local health departments to search for and verify information such as addresses and other identifying information of reported patients. Access is limited to two people per jurisdiction.



Interferon Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs)

IGRAs are the preferred screening method to identify TB infection in clients over age two in whom phlebotomy is not contraindicated.

The TB Unit offers two IGRAs for program use: T-SPOT®-TB and QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus.



Cold-box Shipping Through Federal Express (FedEx)

Programs may use the FedEx courier account supplied by the TB Unit to ship Unit-approved specimens to DSHS laboratories in Austin and Harlingen, as well as DSHS-contracted laboratories. Courier packages and supplies are available to programs and can be ordered through the DSHS Pharmacy Inventory and Ordering System (PIOS). See the [Tuberculosis Specimen Shipping Guide](#) for more details.



Laboratory Tests

DSHS laboratories in Austin and Harlingen perform testing for clients undergoing evaluation for TB infection and disease as outlined in the DSHS Standing Delegation Orders (SDOs) for Tuberculosis Services.

These tests and supplies include mycobacteriology, hematology, chemistry, and special tests. The list of tests performed at the laboratories can be found on the requisitions listed on the [DSHS Laboratory Services website](#).



Radiology Assist

Radiology Assist is a free resource available to providers, including health departments, managing under-insured clients to assist with accessing affordable diagnostic imaging. Discounted rates apply to MRI, CT Scan, and X-Rays, among other imaging. Refer to [Radiology Assist](#) or email info@radiologyassist.com.



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Medications and Supplies for the Treatment of TB

Medications used to treat TB disease and infection, along with select supplies, auxiliary medications, and pharmaceutical compounding to support individual care, are provided to TB programs at no additional cost. The TB formulary is located in Appendix H of the [Texas Tuberculosis Manual](#).



Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM)

Programs may use this service for clients with risk factors for poor drug absorption or those who have a slow response to TB therapy. The TB Unit covers the cost of testing for clients in whom TDM is indicated. Note, this service is for the testing only; necessary supplies should be purchased based on local budgets. See [Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Process](#).



Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) and Syringes

Included in the TB formulary are tuberculin skin test (TST) supplies for Chapter 89 correctional facilities and those who do not qualify for IGRAs when TB screening is indicated. The formulary contains Tubersol, a PPD used in performing the skin test, and tuberculin syringes.



National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS)

NEDSS is the primary statewide integrated infectious disease surveillance system utilized by public health epidemiologists and surveillance staff across Texas to monitor and respond to most notifiable infectious disease conditions. TB Programs will use NEDSS to report persons with latent TB infection (LTBI), confirmed or suspected TB disease, contacts, and other individuals screened for TB in Texas to the DSHS TB Unit.



Nursing, Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Program Evaluation Support

The TB Unit provides technical assistance for nursing case management, contact investigations, genotyping, false-positive investigations, reporting, surveillance, and program evaluation services. Visit [TexasTB.org](#) for more information.

