

Nebraska Tuberculosis Program's Medication Policy for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI)

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (The Department)

1. **The Department supplies medications to the diagnosing/treating practitioner and the diagnosing/treating practitioner dispenses the medications based on “incident to practice.”** Incident to practice is exempt from the practice of pharmacy [§71-1,143 (2)]. Because it is exempt, at the direction of the diagnosing/treating practitioner, directions can be provided to the patient by an employee/agent, and the medication may be handed to the patient by an employee/agent.
2. **The patient CANNOT be charged for the medications.** This does not preclude charges for services provided by the practitioner.
3. **The Department requires practitioners who obtain medication under this program to complete the LTBI Tuberculosis Medication Case Management Form and Checklist for LTBI Treatment on each patient, label the medication, and counsel the patient on drug interactions and side effects.** The forms request the patient's demographic information along with the results of the PPD skin test, chest x-ray and completion of therapy. Copies of the forms can be found on the DHHS website¹ or can be requested from the TB Program.²

Note: Information provided to the Department is exempt from HIPAA because of the Department's status as a “Public Health Agency.”

4. **The process that the Department requires for dispensing medication to TB patients is as follows:**
 - a. **To treating practitioner:** The Department will initially send out a 3-month supply of the medication to the treating practitioner which will be refilled on treating physician's request to complete a 6 or 9 month course of therapy. The Department requires the practitioner to dispense the medications on a monthly basis to prevent the wasting of medication and to provide closer follow-up on the patient's progress throughout the treatment course. The checklist provided by the Department must be completed when the initial request for medication is made.
 - b. **To community health centers:** The Department will send out stock supplies of medications to community health centers or clinics that have large numbers of patients on therapy. The community health centers or clinics will submit a monthly inventory list to the Department, along with the information on the LTBI Medication Case Management Form and Checklist for LTBI Treatment, for each individual patient.

Reference

1 Web site <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/cod/Tuberculosis/tbindex.htm>

2 General Information: (402) 471-9098 or (800) 745-9311