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BINATIONAL TB CARD (CureTB)

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Forms Used in this Section

- [Binational Card Sample](#) (Spanish)
- [CureTB Brochure](#)
- [Binational Notification Form](#) (CureTB)

Introduction

Purpose

Use this section to:

- Set up a Binational TB Card for persons traveling between Washington State and Mexico while receiving treatment for tuberculosis.

What is the public health problem?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a significant problem among foreign-born persons in the United States. During 2010, foreign-born persons accounted for 74.9% of the 237 reported Washington cases; of these foreign-born persons, 35 (14.6%) were from Mexico.
- Some TB patients in Mexico do not have access to needed medications because they live in a remote area or are unable to afford the medications, which may lead to inadequate treatment regimens and multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB.
- About 461 TB cases receiving care in Washington between 2001-2010 originated from Mexico.
- Approximately 1 million persons cross the U.S.-Mexico border daily; an estimated 2.7 million persons from Mexico and Central America live in the United States without documentation of citizenship or visas.
- Reducing TB rates along the border and reducing disparities in TB disease treatment depend on finding and treating persons with or at risk for TB disease on both sides of the border.

What has CDC and its partners accomplished?

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Mexican National TB Program, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission and the four U.S. border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to address the significant TB problem that exists along the 2,000-mile long-border. Specifically, CDC provided resources to assist Texas, Arizona and California in establishing binational health projects.
- The Washington State Department of Health Tuberculosis (TB) Program has collaborated on a project (2001) called the Binational TB Health Card Project with other partners across the nation, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Mexico, and U.S. border states including New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, California.

- TB patients have frequent crossings between the United States and Mexico, which complicate TB treatment. The goals of this project are to ensure continuity of care and assure that patients who have TB complete appropriate treatment

Policy

The Washington State TB Program is responsible for coordinating the process of referring patients traveling between Washington and Mexico to the CureTB: Binational TB Referral Program.

- TB patients who start care in Washington State will be given a card. If they leave for Mexico during the course of therapy, they will be referred to a provider in Mexico or, if leaving without notification of the local health jurisdiction (LHJ), are advised to call the 1-800 number on the card to find a health clinic to continue their treatment in Mexico. The card includes toll-free numbers in the United States and Mexico, a unique card number, the site where the patient first received TB care, treatment start date, treatment regimen, and whether the patient received directly observed therapy.
- Patients who start TB therapy in Mexico will have a card issued to them in Mexico. If they leave for the United States, Washington State will be notified of this patient by CureTB to assure that the patient continues to receive and complete therapy.

Persons eligible for this card include anyone who:

- Has active TB
- Is a TB suspect at risk of being deported
- Is Mexico-born
- Is expected to travel to Mexico while on TB therapy (such as a migrant worker)
- Has recently arrived from Mexico with drug therapy started in Mexico
- Works in the United States and lives in Mexico

What Does CureTB do?

- Referral and follow-up of suspected and verified tuberculosis cases
- Referral/notification of contacts
- Referrals for source case finding
- Past history requests

What Does CureTB not do?

- Does not provide medications
- Does not provide direct services to patients (medical consultation, laboratory, transportation)
- Does not ship materials or medications to patients

Types of Referrals

- **Tuberculosis Cases and Suspects** - Patients with verified tuberculosis are referred to local health jurisdictions in the US or Mexico for initiation or continuation of treatment and follow-up. Patients suspected of active tuberculosis are referred for additional evaluation and/or for initiation/continuation of treatment.
- **Notification of Contacts** - Contacts to verified, infectious cases and to patients in whom there is high suspicion of infectiousness are notified to the local health jurisdictions where they reside in the US or Mexico.
- **Source Case Finding** - Requests for the search of an active case who may have infected patients currently under investigation for tuberculosis are submitted to local health jurisdictions in the US or Mexico.
- **Past History Requests** - Requests for patients' past medical histories pertaining to tuberculosis are submitted to the local health jurisdictions where they resided in the US or Mexico.
- **LTBI Treatment** - Treatment for Latent TB Infection

Issuing a Binational Card

A Binational card is issued to:

- TB cases (both suspect and counted), in all local health jurisdiction (LHJs), that have started TB medications and might return to or travel from Mexico during their treatment.

Local Health Jurisdiction Responsibilities

Local Health Jurisdictions with TB cases who were born in Mexico and travel to/from Mexico:

- Call/FAX information for Binational Card to DOH Nurse Consultant
- Mail/deliver Binational Card to patient when received
- Notify DOH via the Binational TB Notification form when patient leaves the country
- DOH will fax Binational TB Notification form to CureTB

Role of DOH TB Nurse Consultant

- Discuss with LHJ TB Case Manager the potential need for Binational Card on each newly reported case born in Mexico with history of travel to/from Mexico
- If need for Binational Card identified, obtain the following information from LHJ TB Case Manager:
 - Full name of patient and date of birth
 - Local home/cell phone number
 - Contact name, address (town, county), phone number in Mexico for someone who knows where the patient will likely stay or visit. Completed CureTB form needs to include address and phone number (if possible) in Mexico. If no address or phone number, then do NOT send Binational form to CureTB, as they cannot provide assistance on any case if this data is missing.
 - Enter Binational Card unique number onto Binational log database and note criteria for providing the card
 - Enter into PHIMS TB database Comment Section: Binational card number, date of issue, Alien number if applicable
 - When patient moves to Mexico
 - If time allows, provide CureTB with Binational information PRIOR to patient's move, and include potential departure/arrival dates. FAX Binational Notification Referral Form to (619) 692-8020.
 - For all TB cases that have moved to Mexico contact CureTB to see if patient has been located 30 days after TB case has left the U.S and at anticipated date of treatment completion.
 - If CureTB report patient was never found in Mexico, leave case closed as "moved", but make a note in the PHIMS TB comment section that "patient unable to be located in Mexico"
 - When (if) CureTB provides a report that patient has completed medications in Mexico, update PHIMS TB that medications have been completed and change the reason for closure from "moved" to "completed" and note the number of weeks of DOT and weeks of self-administered medications
 - When (if) CureTB provides a report that patient had several months of medications but did not complete the treatment, place updated notes the comments section, as well as, the amount of time (weeks) the patient had of treatment.
 - CureTB often sends an updated/final report letter to DOH TB
 - Notify LHJ that patient has completed medications.

TB patients originating in Mexico and traveling to Washington State

- Cure TB will call the Washington State Department of Health TB Program
- The Nurse Consultant will contact the LHJ to share patient information and verify card number.
- When the patient completes therapy, the LHJ will enter the information into PHIMS TB to notify the Nurse Consultant and close the patient's case in Washington. The Nurse Consultant will send updated RVCT to CureTB.

Resources

- [Binational Card Sample](#) (in Spanish)
- [CureTB Brochure](#)
- [Binational Notification Form](#)
- [Migrant Clinician's Network](#)



For information on CureTB, visit www.curetb.org.