

BINATIONAL TB CARD (CURE TB)

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Forms Used in this Section

- [Binational Card Sample](#) (Spanish) (CureTB)
- [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. In 2002, foreign-born persons accounted for 51% of the 15,075 reported U.S. cases; of these foreign-born persons, 1,880 (25%) were from Mexico. In that same year the TB incidence rate was 8 times greater among foreign-born persons.
- 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.
- 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 WA 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
- About 120 TB cases receiving care in Washington between 2001-2006 originated from Mexico

Policy

Washington State TB Services is responsible for coordinating the process of assigning Binational TB Cards and notifying Cure TB of new patients traveling between Washington and Mexico.

- 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

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/Epidemiologist
- Mail/deliver Binational Card to patient when received
- Notify DOH when patient leaves the country
- DOH will contact CureTB

Role of DOH TB Nurse Consultant/Epidemiologist

- Discuss with LHJ TB Case Manager (CM) 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 (DOB)
 - United States home/cell phone number
 - Address (town, county), phone number and a contact name in Mexico to where patient likely will return or visit
 - If language barrier is present, DOH Bilingual LPN might assist with obtaining needed data
 - Identify additional data which would be helpful for DOH LPN to know
- Notify DOH TB Outreach Worker, Molly Pulido, LPN 360-236-3825 of need for Binational Card to be issued and provide:
 - Details of TB case (name, age, local telephone number, site of disease, how long in country, and any other pertinent information)
 - Name of LHJ in which TB case resides
 - Name and phone number of LHJ TB Case Manager
- Note: King County will notify DOH TB Services Manager if they identify a case that needs a Binational Card. DOH TB Services Manager will contact DOH TB Bilingual LPN.

Role of DOH TB Services Bilingual LPN

- DOH bilingual LPN will:
 - Contact patient by phone. She will discuss:

- Reason for call: to talk about TB and provide Binational Card
- Tuberculosis information, reason for treatment and directly observed therapy (DOT)
- Purpose of Binational card
- Confirm address (town, county), phone number and a contact name in Mexico to where patient will return to or visit
- Identify when patient might return to/visit Mexico
- Advise patient that Binational card will be mailed to LHJ TB Case Manager, who in turn will give the card to the patient
- Stress the importance of patient notifying LHJ prior to move
- Notify LHJ TB Case Manager that:
 - Contact was made with patient
 - Binational card will be/has been mailed to LHJ TB Case Manager
 - LHJ TB CM to give Binational card to patient
- Mail Binational Card to LHJ TB Case Manager
- Notify DOH TB Nurse Consultant/Epidemiologist that
 - Contact was made with patient (provide name of TB case)
 - Number of Binational card issued
 - Date the Binational card was issued
 - Reasons for providing the card

Responsibilities of DOH TB Nurse Consultant/Epidemiologist after notification by DOH LPN

- Enter Binational Card unique number onto Binational log database and note criteria for providing the card
- Enter into TIMS database RVCT Comment Section: Binational card number, date of issue, Alien number if applicable
- When case moves to Mexico
 - If time allows, provide CURE-TB with Binational information PRIOR to patient's move, to include potential move date. FAX Binational Notification Referral Form and Supplemental Referral Forms to (619) 692-8020.
 - When patient moves or travels to Mexico, notify CURE-TB and fax Binational Information Form, unless this step was completed earlier (see previous bullet)

- 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.
- For all TB cases that have moved to Mexico:
 - Contact CureTB to see if pt has been located 30 days after TB case left U.S
 - Suggestion: identify which CureTB staff person is following the case and confirm this staff person's phone number for future follow-up calls, if needed, on a specific case

Patient Follow-up

DOH Nurse Consultant

- One month after move - contact CURE TB (see above) to determine if case has been located. Provide name, DOB, Binational Card number, and when left Washington State
- 2nd call to Cure TB – during month patient was anticipated to complete – this prompts CURE TB for follow-up on patient; provide name, DOB, Binational Card number, and when left Washington State.
- If Cure TB report patient never found in Mexico, leave case closed as “moved”, but make a note in the RVCT comment section that “patient unable to be located in Mexico”
- When CureTB provides a report that patient has completed medications in Mexico, then prepare an Update Report and submit to Data Entry for update in RVCT 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
- If/when CureTB provides a report that patient had several months of medications but did not complete the treatment, provide Update Report to Data Entry for updated notes to be placed in the RVCT comments section. Also, update 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 Services and the LHJ of patient destination.
- The Nurse Consultant will contact LHJ to obtain information about actual patient arrival date, whether patient has card with them, and verify card number. The

Nurse Consultant will fill out Appendix B,C, and D of Binational Card application form and fax the information to Cure TB at (619) 692-8020.

- When the patient completes therapy, the LHJ will notify the Nurse Consultant and he/she will notify Cure TB.
- If a patient arrives in Washington State from Mexico and returns to Mexico during treatment, a second card will be issued, using the SAME Card number, but with a “B” after the number.
- For TB patients who arrive from Mexico or another state and who meet the criteria for a Binational Card but do not have one: the the LHJ will contact the DOH Nurse Consultant/Epidemiologist.

Resources

- [Binational Card Sample](#) (in Spanish)
- [Cure TB Brochure](#)
- [Binational Notification Form](#)



For information on Cure-TB, visit www.curetb.org.