

Roles and Responsibilities within TB Management

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The TB Assistant/DOT Worker

Assists the nurse managing the TB program using their knowledge of the community and community members. Carries out tasks delegated and supervised by the nurse. The worker dispenses medication as a delegated task under the license of the supervising nurse who is responsible for ensuring correct patient, medication, dose, route and day.

The TB Nurse

Is responsible for running the TB program in the community that involves, education, assessment, screening, treatment, documentation and reporting. The nurse uses their clinical judgment and assessment skills to make decisions regarding testing, treatment, and follow up action. The TB nurse has the knowledge and skill to assess, make decisions and take action in general uncomplicated daily management of the program. They refer to the current Interim Guidelines for Management of Active TB, the Nunavut TB Manual, and the Canadian TB Standards to inform their practice. The TB nurse uses their critical thinking skills to decide when to seek advice from RCDC who in turn communicates with the TB MD, and when to refer back to CHN and community MD for comprehensive medical follow up. The TB nurse is responsible for ensuring good patient care is carried out and reporting unsafe situations or clinical errors to their supervisor. In Iqaluit an MD sees all clients before starting on treatment. In the communities most clients do not see an MD before or throughout their whole assessment and treatment - the TB nurse is taking on this delegated role which assumes a high level of knowledge, judgment and clinical practice.

The Supervisor of Community and Health Programs (SCHP)

Is responsible for overseeing the TB Program, TB nurse's practice and the DOT workers. The TB nurse is currently hired as a staff nurse not as a 'Supervisor of Community TB Programs' in the manner that the Homecare nurse is a 'Supervisor of Home Care Services'

The Regional Managers and Directors (ie of Baffin, Kivalliq, Iqaluit)

Are responsible for staffing communities in their region that have TB cases to adequately address the workload and provide both quality patient care in treatment as well as prevention services. Education and orientation of staff hired is currently the responsibility of the region into which staff is hired and comes out of the regional budget.

Region Communicable Disease Coordinators (at Iqaluit Public Health)

Are the go-to persons for advice on unusual cases and act as the conduit to the TB MD in Baffin. The coordinator advises on exceptional cases or situations, consults with the TB MD, the Territorial Communicable Disease Consultant (Office of the CMOH) and the external TB Physician Consultant (Dr. Alvarez) as appropriate.

TB Educator and Program Support (out of Iqaluit Public Health - temporary position)

This position is hired and funded out of Iqaluit Public Health under the Iqaluit Regional Department. The purpose is to develop orientation and education materials for training and support of staff working in TB programs in Nunavut to support RCDC who is currently shouldering the burden of education. Areas of need are standard TB case management and monitoring, contact investigation, screening for active TB, completion of reports and knowledge as to appropriate information to provide when requesting basic medical advice and ensure that patient treatment and monitoring are being carried out . The TB educator also fields calls regarding routine practice and receives referrals from RCDC for specific support and education for staff.

TB Physician (based in Iqaluit)

Is the medical resource and 'expert' for TB related concerns generated by nurses and physicians throughout Baffin. Reviews patient information, makes recommendations, writes prescriptions for treatment, advises on care. The TB MD depends on the TB nurse doing a thorough assessment of all clients and communicating this and all other relevant information accurately and in a timely fashion. In Iqaluit the TB MD sees all clients before recommending they start on any TB treatment (active or latent).

Territorial Communicable Disease Consultant (Office of the CMOH)

Develops policy and procedures regarding tuberculosis management in Nunavut, provides advice to RCDC on request, helps interpret policy and protocols in complicated situations, advises on outbreak management, communicates with health units outside Nunavut regarding patients travelling in and out of Baffin, receives reports from the regions, submits numerous reports to Public Health Agency of Canada. Works with the CMOH.

External TB Physician Consultant

Is a TB expert who provides advice to the Territorial CDC, RCDC, and the TB MD when requested and helps clarify best practice in complicated situations or extenuating circumstances.