

Section 3: **Tuberculosis Prevention**

Policy Number: **3.1**

Subject: **Tuberculosis in Indigenous Populations**

Issued: **July 1, 2018**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Indigenous people in Canada have the highest incidence rate of tuberculosis in this country. In addition to this, other factors such as the social determinants of health also impact disease risk and transmission. The Community Health Nurse must consider comorbidities, food security, housing, health care access, education level, income level and transmission factors when looking at the overall picture of tuberculosis risk for individual clients, families and communities.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 Community Health Nurses (CHNs) will understand and act on the various factors that influence tuberculosis risk and transmission in the community in which they provide services.
- 2.2 CHNs will use various methods to address tuberculosis risk, including advocating with regards to the social determinants of health, working with community health care and support workers, facilitating client and family education in the local language, supporting harm reduction activities, etc.

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 CHNs will ensure that they are aware of medical and social factors that influence tuberculosis transmission in Indigenous populations, through acquiring knowledge on disease transmission, risk factors, the impact of the social determinants of health, and Indigenous culture.
- 3.2 CHNs will ensure that they consider appropriate factors impacting Indigenous health when developing plans for tuberculosis prevention and control and communication plans. These factors will also form the basis of high levels of suspicion with regards to symptoms that may suggest tuberculosis.
3. As with all cases of tuberculosis, any individual diagnosed with tuberculosis must receive an HIV test.

4. REFERENCES

- 4.1 PHAC. (2014). Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th Edition. Retrieved from: http://strauss.ca/OEMAC/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Canadian_TB_Standards_7th-edition_English.pdf