
Section 3: **Tuberculosis Prevention**

Policy Number: **3.3**

Subject: **Directly Observed
Preventative Treatment (DOPT) for
the Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis
Infection (LTBI)**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Effective treatment of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) is an important component of tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control. First Nations and Inuit Health Branch – Ontario Region (FNIHB-OR) has developed the Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) Manual for training of all DOT/DOPT workers. This manual also includes general information on TB management in First Nations communities in Ontario Region.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 To improve adherence to treatment of LTBI, FNIHB-OR recommends Directly Observed Preventative Treatment (DOPT) for all treatment regimens for LTBI.
- 2.2 The Community Health Nurse (CHN) should discuss any exceptions to this method of medication delivery with the Communicable Disease (CD) nurse.
- 2.3 If it is not possible for a client to be on DOPT, the CHN should advise the CD nurse.
- 2.4 Clients who are not able to be monitored through DOPT will need more frequent follow up appointments with the CHN and/or healthcare provider.

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The CHN is responsible for ensuring the client is aware of the responsibilities and commitment to taking the treatment. For more guidelines on this discussion refer to the FNIHB-OR DOT Manual (www.onehealth.ca).
- 3.2 For clients who refuse treatment, treatment is contraindicated, or treatment is stopped before completion, the CHN will ensure they receive education about the signs and symptoms of tuberculosis and the importance of self-reporting should symptoms develop.
- 3.3 Clients at high risk of developing active TB (Refer to the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th edition, page 127) who refuse treatment, treatment is contraindicated, or treatment is stopped before completion, should be referred to a TB specialist. In these situations, a regular follow up program for 2 years is required.

4. REFERENCES

- 4.1 First Nations and Inuit Health Branch – Ontario Region. (2012). Directly Observed Therapy Manual. Retrieved from: www.onehealth.ca.

- 4.2 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