

3a. Think TB!

Symptoms

Consider a diagnosis of tuberculosis in patients with the any following symptoms, especially if other causes have been ruled out:

- Cough lasting over 3 weeks
- Hemoptysis
- Night sweats
- Unexplained fatigue or weight loss
- Persistent fever or weakness

TB infection of other parts of the body

Also, consider extrapulmonary TB, especially in HIV infected individuals, if there are symptoms which cannot be ascribed to other causes.

Conditions associated with progression to active TB

- Immunosuppression (HIV, organ transplant, immunosuppressive medications)
- Diabetes
- End-stage renal disease
- Substance abuse (especially IV drug use)
- Recent contact to an infectious active TB case
- Recent PPD skin test conversion (an increase of 10 mm of induration within a 2 year period)
- Silicosis
- Gastrectomy, jejunioileal bypass
- Cancer of the head and neck

Persons with these conditions should have TB considered in their differential diagnoses, and a thorough history taken. The history should include specific questions about any exposure to active TB, travel to endemic countries, or history of a positive skin test or abnormal x-ray.

Some people have higher rates of TB:

- Foreign-born visitors or migrants from Mexico, Central or South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia, the Pacific Islands, or the Middle East
- HIV infected individuals
- Homeless and medically underserved persons
- Residents of long-term care facilities (prisons or nursing homes)

County TB services

Santa Cruz County HSA provides consultation, case management, and clinical services for patients with active TB disease and eligible patients with latent TB infection.

A field public health nurse is assigned to every active TB case to promote patient compliance and to conduct a contact investigation. In addition, educational materials about TB, and TB screening and diagnosis are available for providers and patients through the County TB Coordinator, who can be reached at 454-4114.




A negative PPD skin test does not rule out active TB. The clinical picture and patient history should always be taken into account.


Up to 50% of persons with disseminated active TB will be skin test negative. Furthermore, it can take up to 12 weeks for a positive reaction to develop in a newly infected person.

See next page for skin test info.

Active TB:

Report by phone or fax within 1 working day

 **454-4114**

 **454-5049** fax


Do not wait for lab results to confirm the diagnosis prior to reporting.


For faxed reports, use the *Confidential Morbidity Report* included with this binder. Please fill out the TB section at the bottom as completely as possible.

Do not wait for lab results to confirm diagnosis of active TB prior to reporting.

Latent TB:

Report by fax or mail within 1 week

 **454-5049** fax

 Disease Control Unit
SCC Health Services Agency
1060 Emeline Avenue, Bldg. F
Santa Cruz CA 95060

Report only recent converters (patients with PPD skin test indurations increasing 10 mm or more in 2 years) and all children under 6 years of age. Use the *Confidential Morbidity Report*.

All phone numbers area code 831