

RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

Infection Prevention and Control

Tuberculosis (TB) Control Plan

**SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION: TB EXPOSURE CONTROL
PLAN**

**Policy No.: IC300
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Policy and Purpose

OSHA regulations require the employer to provide a written tuberculosis (TB) exposure control plan that covers the facility's policies and procedures to minimize the risk of transmission of TB in the workplace. This TB control Plan is intended to serve as the guidance document for preventing hospital acquired tuberculosis. The policies and procedures cover the diagnosis and treatment of patients with pulmonary TB in two settings: inpatient units and outpatient clinics.

Rancho is a unique health care facility for rehabilitation; it does not have an emergency room or walk-in clinic for the general public. Admissions are centralized via the Central Admission and Referral Office (CARO) Monday through Friday from 07:00 a.m. to 07:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 08:00 a.m. to 04:30 p.m. It is Rancho's policy not to knowingly admit a TB suspect or a confirmed contagious pulmonary tuberculosis patient if an Airborne Isolation Room is unavailable (i.e., TB patient receives less than two weeks of TB medications).

The Tuberculosis Exposure Control Plan is intended to review the mode and risk of tuberculosis transmission and summarize the policies designed to reduce the risk of TB transmission to healthcare workers, patients, and visitors. The TB Control Plan serves as a guideline for preventing hospital acquired tuberculosis for patients, visitors, and employees. The policies and procedures in the document are consistent with the current recommendations and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Los Angeles County Tuberculosis Control Program.

Scope

The policies and procedures in the Tuberculosis Exposure Control Plan are applicable to the Rehabilitation Center personnel with potential contact with patients with infectious tuberculosis, including employees, volunteers, physicians, dentists, and students.

Responsibility

Administration

The Hospital Infection Prevention and Control (HIP&C) Committee has the responsibility for the establishment, implementation, oversight, and evaluation of this Plan. The HIP&C must review and approve the Plan biannually and as needed.

Individual

The individual, as defined in the Scope above, is responsible and accountable for compliance with this document to ensure Rancho's compliance with the guidelines and legal

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standards used to formulate this Plan.

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Department/Unit

Each Department or Unit Manager is responsible for incorporating the relevant aspects of this Plan into departmental/unit policies and procedures and shall have the responsibility for ensuring implementation of the Plan where applicable.

TB Risk Assessment

TB control measures will be based on a careful assessment of the risk of TB transmission utilizing the CDC's assessment tool. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the risk of TB transmission at Rancho so that appropriate infection prevention and control interventions can be developed based on actual risk. The risk assessment shall be conducted by hospital specialists in epidemiology, infectious diseases, pulmonary disease, with assistance from Infection Prevention and Control, Administration, Employee Health Services, Facilities Management, department or unit managers, and consultation with Los Angeles County TB Control Program as needed.

TB, a disease caused by the bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and causes more deaths worldwide than any other infectious disease. The United States has continued to experience more effective TB control programs that emphasize prompt identification of persons with TB, prompt initiation of appropriate therapy, and efforts to assure that therapy will be completed.

TB is a disease that is often diagnosed and treated in an outpatient setting. However, public hospitals often treat patients with advanced, active (smear positive) pulmonary TB that is not diagnosed until after hospital admission. A person with infectious pulmonary or upper airway tuberculosis (TB) disease may infect others via the airborne route through aerosolization of microscopic droplet nuclei containing *M. tuberculosis* bacilli by coughing, sneezing, shouting, or singing. A high index of suspicion and continuous surveillance are crucial to the control of TB, to protect both staff and other patients. Many factors influence the transmissibility of the disease, therefore, prevention and interruption of TB transmission is the goal of an Infection Prevention and Control program.

An effective TB infection control program requires early identification, isolation, and initiation of effective treatment of persons with active TB in order to reduce the risk of transmission. Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center's Infection Prevention and Control plan consists of:

a. Administrative controls

Administrative level of control consists of (1) containment with early identification and prompt triage of a symptomatic person; (2) employee surveillance, which refers to

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baseline and periodic TB screening of employees exposed to TB; and (3) employee education.

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b. Engineering controls

It is essential to ensure adequate ventilation strategies and systems to reduce the concentration of infectious particles in the air, prevent dissemination of these particles throughout the facility, or to kill the tubercle bacilli within the particle.

c. Personal controls

Personal level or control refers to personal respiratory protection used to filter out infectious particles for patients, health care workers, and visitors.

Employees are skin tested annually for TB screening. In addition to employee surveillance, Rancho is dedicated to training employees about the risks involved with caring for TB patients. The final areas covered in the policies and procedures are Employee Health Services (EHS) TB surveillance program and Engineering Controls. TB prevention training will be provided annually to all employees. The training includes:

1. Mode of TB transmission and symptoms
2. Differences between infection and disease
3. Screening and interpretation of skin test result
4. Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) and TB disease
5. Individuals at increased risk for occupational exposure to TB, especially those who are immunocompromised
6. Connection between TB and HIV disease
7. Personal protection education and training for fit testing for personal respirators and usage of equipment for assigned staff
8. Instruction to report chronic illness to supervisor
9. Employee and employer responsibility under the workplace Exposure Control Plan

The TB exposure plan provides a baseline of practice that guides Rancho employees regarding the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and post TB exposure management. This plan will serve to protect the health of patients and employees.