**Tuberculosis (TB) - Annual Health Screening**

Annual health screening is specifically designed to identify possible areas of special need in relation to TB.It is a national Department of Health guideline that Occupational Health issue an annual reminder on the symptoms of TB and the need for the prompt reporting of symptoms. **In determining who should complete this annual screening the following occupational groups are in scope:**

Healthcare worker (HCW), laboratory worker or mortuary staff who has either direct contact with TB patients or with potentially infectious clinical materials or derived isolates.

In addition, there are a number of occupational groups who are working with persons at higher risk of acquiring TB. These include staff working with prisoners, homeless persons, persons with drug and alcohol misuse and those who work with refugees and asylum seekers. BCG vaccination may also be considered for these groups.

In the hospital setting this may include HCWs working in or who perform:

* Emergency departments and medical assessments units – as they are likely to be exposed to respiratory problems before diagnosis, including intubation
* Respiratory/HIV wards
* Laboratories dealing with TB specimens
* Mortuary and Post-mortems
* Bronchoscopy or sputum induction, lung function testing – i.e., aerosolisation procedures

It should be noted that the risk of exposure of HCWs other than those listed in the category above is unlikely to exceed the background risk of TB the general population and therefore vaccination is not routinely required.

Symptoms of TB develop gradually and depend on the organs affected.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms?**  | **Yes** | **No** |
| Pulmonary TB is the most common and may cause the following symptoms: |  |  |
| * Persistent cough lasting three weeks or more (with or without sputum) (cough at first yellow/green mucus, occasionally blood stained)
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| * Pain in the chest
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| Shortness of breath General symptoms of TB disease include: |  |  |
| * Unexplained weight loss (often dramatic)
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| * Fever (for about 2 weeks)
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| * Night sweats
 |  |  |
| * Tiredness/ weakness
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| * Loss of appetite
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| The symptoms of extra pulmonary TB depend on the part of the body that is affected by the disease, for example: |  |  |
| * Hoarseness/laryngitis
 |  |  |
| * Swollen glands
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| * Swelling of the joints
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| * TB of the spine may cause pain in the back
 |  |  |
| * TB of the kidneys may cause blood in the urine
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If you respond **`YES`** to any of the above questions you need to inform your manager who will complete a referral to Occupational Health and Wellbeing (https://auh.cohort.hosting/Cohort10/LogOn.aspx).