

TB Infection Patient Educational Materials: Tip Sheet for Providers

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has new informational materials for [patients at risk](#) for latent tuberculosis infection. These materials aim to teach patients what TB infection is and motivate them to start and complete treatment if diagnosed. The materials are designed to encourage provider-patient interactions for active learning through the process of testing and treatment decisions. We encourage providers to use these materials as a continuum, as they build upon each other.

MDPH has drawn upon health literacy best practices to develop patient-centered materials. Each features recognizable icons and images that convey key messages about testing and treatment. To ensure that materials are easy to understand, MDPH tested them with members of the target population. To reach refugees, immigrants and others with limited English proficiency, all materials are available in bilingual formats for 17 languages. Each is also available in English only.

To download materials from the MDPH website – click [here](#).

Material 1: You Can Have TB Infection and Feel Healthy

Purpose: Change how people perceive TB infection

Information:

- You can have TB infection and feel healthy
- Testing and treatment for TB are available

Suggested uses:

- Share with persons at risk for TB infection
- Hang as a poster in waiting rooms or offices



Material 2: You have TB infection (a type of TB)

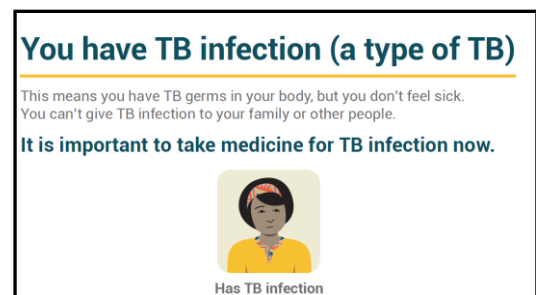
Purpose: Motivate patients who test positive to accept treatment

Information:

- TB infection can turn into TB disease
- People with TB infection **don't** feel sick and **can't** give TB to their families
- People with TB disease **do** feel sick and **can** give TB to their families
- It is important to take medicine for TB infection so it doesn't turn into TB disease

Suggested uses:

- Use as a conversation starter with patients who test positive for TB infection
- Give to patients who test positive for TB infection



Material 3: How to take your TB medicine

Purpose: Provide patients with a treatment guide that is easy to follow

Information:

- When to take your medicine
- How many pills to take and for how long
- What to do if you have side effects
- How to contact your doctor

A form titled "How to take your TB medicine" with a yellow header bar. It includes fields for Patient, Doctor, Date, and Medicine name. A central illustration shows a red pill bottle with a white "Rx" label.

Suggested uses:

- Fill out with a patient during the medical visit when the patient begins their TB treatment
- Continue to review and reference during follow-up visits

Material 4: Keep taking your TB medicine

Purpose: Help patients to stay adherent to their treatment regimen

Information:

- Date and time of your next visit
- You will get more medicine at your next visit
- There are many strategies you can use to remember to take your medicine

A form titled "Keep taking your TB medicine" with a yellow header bar. It includes a reminder to remember the next doctor visit, a calendar grid for the month, and a section for taking medicine at Morning, Afternoon, and Night. An illustration of a person taking medicine is in the top right corner.

Suggested uses:

- Fill out with a patient during the medical visit when the patient starts TB treatment and each follow-up visit

When talking to refugees and immigrants about TB infection, remember that they may:

- Believe that the BCG vaccine provides lifelong protection from TB
- Worry that a TB infection diagnosis will lead to social stigma
- Have cultural beliefs about disease and medicine that differ from Western biomedical model

Positive encouragement from medical providers can motivate patients to complete treatment.

The MDPH materials are not intended to cover every aspect of TB infection and TB disease. They focus on specific, actionable messages. Providers may supplement these with additional materials produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other organizations.

The MDPH materials are available on the MDPH website:

www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/tb/public-health-cdc-tb-prevention.html . The CDC materials are available at www.cdc.gov/tb/education/patient_edmaterials.htm.