**Latent 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 latent TB infection is and motivate them to start and complete treatment if diagnosed.

MDPH drew upon health literacy best practices to develop materials for people with limited literacy skills. The materials feature recognizable icons and images that convey key messages about TB testing and treatment. In addition, “TB infection” rather than “Latent TB Infection” and “LTBI” is used throughout the series as it is more easily understood. The materials have been tested with members of the target population.

Bilingual materials are available for 23 languages. Each material is also available in English only.

**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 are available

**Suggested uses:**

* Give to people at risk for TB infection
* Hang as a poster in a waiting room or office

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



**Purpose:** Motivate patients who test positive to take medicine

**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’s 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 tailored treatment guide that’s easy to follow



**Information:**

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

**Suggested uses:**

* Fill out with a patient during the medical visit and/or when the patient picks up their first bottle of medicine
* Reference during follow-up visits

**Material 4: Keep taking your TB medicine**

**Purpose:** Enable patients to stay adherent to a treatment regimen



**Information:**

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

 remember to take your medicine

**Suggested uses:**

* Fill out with a patient during the initial and subsequent medical visits and/or when the patient picks up their first and subsequent bottles of medicine

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

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

The MDPH materials are not intended to cover every latent TB infection and TB disease topic. They focus on specific, actionable messages. Providers may supplement these materials with additional materials produced by the CDC and other organizations.

**Regular, positive encouragement from health care providers can motivate patients to complete treatment.**

The MDPH materials are available at [www.mass.gov/dph/tb](http://www.mass.gov/dph/tb). The CDC materials are available at [www.cdc.gov/tb/education/patient\_edmaterials.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/patient_edmaterials.htm).