

Tuberculosis Screening for Migrants

Version 2 – March 2013

Welcome

Before or shortly after you arrive in Queensland, the Australian Government may ask you to go to a Tuberculosis Control Unit in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville or Cairns for tuberculosis health screening. This service is free of charge.

What is TB?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection that can affect almost any part of the body. TB is most common in the lungs, a form called pulmonary tuberculosis.

TB is well-controlled in Queensland. However, TB still exists in all countries, so new cases do occur. TB can be a serious disease if it is not diagnosed and treated properly. It can be cured by medications if taken as prescribed by your doctor.

For more information please see fact sheets at

<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/15/121/628/Tuberculosis-TB>

What to expect

Your first visit may include the following:

- Tuberculin skin test (Mantoux test) - This test determines whether you have been exposed to the tuberculosis germ. The test is safe and is given with a new, disposable needle into the top layer of skin on the left forearm. You may have some redness or itching after the test, but you should avoid scratching the site. If this test is done, you need to return to this clinic in two or three days for the test to be checked.
- Chest x-ray - This is a quick, simple and painless test. It allows the doctor to check the lungs for disease including tuberculosis. If you are pregnant, please tell the radiographer before having a chest x-ray to determine if the test is necessary at this time.
- Blood tests to determine the presence of some controllable diseases, such as Hepatitis B. These are done on a small sample of blood taken from the arm.
- Immunisation - If you have previously been immunised, please bring your vaccination records with you. If you do not have records or your immunisations are incomplete, appropriate follow-up will be arranged.
- Other checks as appropriate.

Your second visit (two or three days later):

- Tuberculin skin test reading - The skin test is checked and recorded. Vaccination may be offered if you need it. Depending on the results of your skin test, chest x-ray, and/or blood tests, you may need to see a doctor at your closest Tuberculosis Control Unit. An appointment will be made for you if needed.

Further information

Location	Telephone	Location	Telephone
Metro South Clinical TB Service Princess Alexandra Hospital (<i>Brisbane</i>)	3176 4166	<i>Cairns</i> TB Control Unit Cairns Base Hospital	4226 6240
<i>Rockhampton</i> TB Control Unit Rockhampton Base Hospital	4920 6211	<i>Townsville</i> TB Control Unit Townsville General Hospital	4433 2860
<i>Toowoomba</i> TB Control Unit Toowoomba Hospital	4616 6446	<i>Mackay</i> TB Control Unit Mackay Base Hospital	4885 5949
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