

Tuberculosis risk assessment for students undertaking clinical placements

Administration guidance for Education Provider Placement Coordinators

Department of Health Guideline v1.0

1. Statement

Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) have a mandatory responsibility to ensure that all workers, including contractors, students and volunteers, whose role may pose a risk of acquisition and/or transmission of tuberculosis (TB) are assessed and screened appropriately as per the [Queensland Health Service Directive: Tuberculosis Control and the Protocol for the Control of TB](#). HHSs must have an arrangement in place with tertiary institutions to ensure students undertaking clinical placements have completed the risk assessment prior to clinical placement.

It is possible for a person to develop active TB months or years after an exposure to infectious TB. Some workers may be at increased risk for TB because they have lived in a country with a high incidence of TB, through acquisition in the work environment for example caring for patients with TB, or working in a TB.

2. Scope

Students planning to undertake clinical placement must be assessed for their risk of TB using the [Queensland Health TB Risk Assessment Form for Students](#). This risk assessment identifies those students who require further assessment and medical testing for the presence of latent or active TB. Where the risk assessment identifies that an individual requires further assessment, the assessment must be undertaken by a doctor or at TB Control Unit, or in remote settings, on the advice and guidance of a clinician experienced in TB.

3. Process

Step 1—The individual student seeking to undertake clinical placement completes the TB risk assessment form for students and returns the completed form to the Education Provider Placement Coordinator prior to commencement of placement. The completed risk assessment questionnaire will be reviewed by the Education Provider Placement Coordinator.

Step 2—If the student has answered **YES** to any questions from **Part A** the student is required to:

- Make an urgent appointment with a TB Control Unit or a doctor for assessment of symptom/s of active TB. Further referral to a TB specialist may be recommended by the doctor.



- Provide documented clearance for signs of active TB signed by the assessing clinician (TB Control Unit or doctor) to the Education Provider Placement Coordinator before placement commences.

Step 3— If the student has answered **YES** to any of **questions 3 – 7 from Part B** further assessment for latent (non-infectious) TB is required (see Part B assessment form for details). The student is required to undertake an appointment with a TB Control Unit or a doctor as soon as practicable. If the student has any documents related to previous assessment or testing, they should take all documentation, with a copy of their risk assessment questionnaire to their appointment. The student may commence placement while further assessment for latent TB is being completed **if** they have answered **NO** to all of **Part A**.

Further advice is available from your local [tuberculosis control unit](#)

4. Legislation

[Queensland Health: Service Directive: for tuberculosis control](#)

[Queensland Health: Protocol for the control of tuberculosis](#)

Supporting documents

Further information and assistance

Contact your closest [tuberculosis control unit](#) and/or refer to the resources below:

- [Queensland Health Tuberculosis fact sheet](#)
- [BCG Vaccination fact sheet](#)
- [Tuberculin test fact sheet](#)
- [National Tuberculosis Advisory Committee Guideline: Management of Tuberculosis Risk in Healthcare Workers in Australia](#)

For definitions of Contractors, students and volunteers please refer to the [HSD Protocol: Vaccine preventable disease screening for Contractors, students and volunteers](#).

For definitions of workers please see [HR policy B1 Recruitment and selection](#)

Version Control

Version	Date	Comments
V1.0	25 June 2018	New document

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