

Tuberculosis Risk Assessment for Workers in Queensland Health Facilities Hospital and Health Service Administration Guidance

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*.

It is possible for a person to develop active TB months or years after an exposure to infectious TB. Some staff 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 laboratory. All workers must complete and return the TB Risk Assessment Questionnaire prior to commencement of employment.

2. Scope

All categories of workers must be assessed for their risk of TB using the [Queensland Health TB risk assessment tool](#). This risk assessment identifies those workers who require further assessment and medical testing for the presence of latent or active TB. Where the TB risk assessment identifies that an individual requires further assessment, the assessment must be undertaken by a clinician experienced in TB, or in remote settings, on the advice and guidance of a clinician experienced in 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.

3. Process

Step 1—the individual worker commencing employment completes the TB risk assessment questionnaire and returns the questionnaire as instructed by the HHS.

Step 2—the completed TB risk assessment questionnaire for workers will be reviewed using the TB risk assessment matrix (staff/clinician use only). If clearance to commence employment is required or further assessment is indicated, the worker will be advised of the additional actions required as per local HHS protocol.

Students seeking clinical placement will process the TB Risk Assessment Form for Students as instructed by their educational facility. Further information for students is available on the Queensland Health Student information webpage <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/employment/clinical-placement/students/australian>

Consultation with a [tuberculosis control unit](#) is available to confirm recommendations if required.



4. Record management

A copy of the [TB risk assessment outcome form](#) should be provided to the worker. It is the responsibility of each HHS to store records of risk assessments and referrals for Queensland Health employees in a secure and retrievable manner.

5. Legislation

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

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

6. 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