

Fact sheet

Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service

Clinical Information Sheet

Clinical Condition	Suspected Tuberculosis:
Eligibility	New lung infiltrate or positive laboratory result for TB or pleural effusion in a patient with TB risk factors.
Priority	Immediate priority, urgent or semi-urgent: Proven or suspected active pulmonary tuberculosis: Mon-Fri, 9-5: contact the Chest Clinic or the Thoracic Registrar immediately on 8222 4867 (RAH) or 82226000 (TQEH) then fax referral to 08 8222 5398 (RAH) or 0882227244 (TQEH). After hours: on call Thoracic Registrar or medical registrar via RAH switchboard 8222 4000 or TQEH 82226000.
Differential Diagnoses	Old TB Other infection Malignancy Sarcoidosis
Information required with referral	History: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duration and severity of symptoms• Associated symptoms – dyspnoea/ cough/ chest pain/ weight loss/ night sweats• systemic symptoms• TB risk factors: Recent immigrants, refugees or recent travel to endemic areas, particularly Asia, South East Asia, Africa, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander patients/ known TB contact/ HIV positive or AIDs or other immunosuppression/ alcohol or drug abuse/ exposure to hospitals or prisons/ health care worker in TB <p>Other medical and allied health practitioners the patient has seen concerning this problem.</p>
Investigations required with referral	Essential: Chest x-ray Sputum x 3 early morning for AFB microscopy & culture.
Pre-Referral management strategies (include with referral)	Seek urgent advice from the Chest Clinic or on call Thoracic Registrar. A surgical mask should be worn by patients with sputum smear positive for AFBs or suspected to be infectious (cough, cavitation on chest x-ray/CT).

For more information

Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service
Royal Adelaide Hospital, North Terrace ADELAIDE Telephone: 08 8222 4000
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 28 Woodville Road, WOODVILLE Telephone: 08 8222 6000

© Department for Health and Ageing, Government of South Australia. All rights reserved.

