

# Tuberculosis (TB) disease medications

Information for the community

If you have active tuberculosis (TB), your doctor will give you a few different antibiotics (medications) to take every day for at least six months.

## Types of medications

These are the medications your doctor might ask you take.

- |              |   |                |   |
|--------------|---|----------------|---|
| > Rifampicin |  | > Pyrazinamide |  |
| > Isoniazid  |  | > Levofloxacin |  |
| > Ethambutol |  |                |   |

The amount you need to take depends on your age, size, and how sick you might feel – your doctor will work this out for you.

## Taking your medication

You will probably start to feel much better soon after taking your medication for a few weeks, but it is very important that you take all the medications your doctor asks you to, every day or as often as they tell you to, for as long as they say.

If you stop taking your medications early, you can get very sick and other people can get sick too. The TB germ can even start to change so that the medications stop working for you and others.

It can be very dangerous to drink alcohol when you are taking TB medications as it can cause your liver to become very sick.

Don't stop taking your medication until your doctor says it's safe.

## Side effects

You might feel some side effects from your medication – if you have nausea, vomiting, pain, pins-and-needles, skin rashes or anything else unusual, please let your doctor or nurse know.

If you are worried about your side effects and your clinic is not open, call SA TB Services (weekdays) on (08) 7074 1089 or The Royal Adelaide Hospital (nights and weekends) on (08) 7074 0000.

### For more information:

Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA TB Services  
Telephone: (08) 7074 1089 (business hours)  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)

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