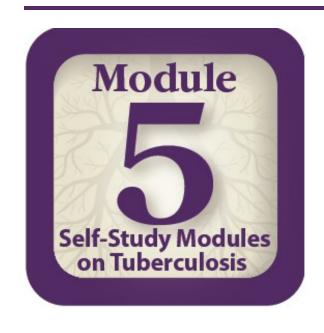
Self-Study Modules on Tuberculosis



Infectiousness and Infection Control

Module 5: Objectives

At completion of this module, learners will be able to:

- Describe the factors that determine the infectiousness of a TB patient
- Describe the main goals of a TB infection-control program
- Describe the three levels of control measures that are the basis of an effective TB infection-control program
- Describe the purpose and the characteristics of a TB airborne infection isolation (AII) room
- Describe the circumstances when personal respirators should be used

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Module 5: Overview

- Infectiousness
- TB Infection Control
 - TB Infection Control Measures
 - TB Risk Assessment
 - Infection Control in Nontraditional Facility-Based Settings
 - TB Infection Control in the Home
- Case Studies
 Module 5 Infectiousness and Infection Control 3

Infectiousness (1)

- Infectiousness is directly related to number of tubercle bacilli TB patients expel into air
- TB patients generally expel more tubercle bacilli if their cough produces a lot of sputum
- Only people with TB of the lungs, airway, or larynx are infectious

Infectiousness (2)

Factors generally associated with infectiousness:

Presence of cough	Not covering mouth when coughing
Cavity in the lung	Not receiving adequate treatment or prolonged illness
Acid-fast bacilli on sputum smear	Undergoing cough inducing procedures
TB of lungs, airway, or larynx	Positive sputum cultures

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Infectiousness (3)

 Infectiousness appears to decline rapidly after adequate treatment is started; however:

 How quickly infectiousness declines varies from patient to patient (weeks to months)

 Patients with drug-resistant TB may not respond to initial drug regimen; meaning they may remain infectious for longer

Infectiousness (4)

- Patients can be considered non-infectious when they meet <u>all</u> of the following criteria:
 - Received adequate treatment for 2 weeks or longer
 - Symptoms have improved
 - Three consecutive negative sputum smears from sputum collected in 8 to 24 hour intervals (at least one early morning specimen)

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Infectiousness (5)

- Children are less likely than adults to be infectious
 - Children generally do not produce a lot of sputum when they cough
- Young children can still transmit TB if they exhibit signs of infectiousness



List 7 factors that affect the infectiousness of a TB patient.

- Presence of a cough
- Chest x-ray showing cavity in lung
- Positive acid-fast bacilli sputum smear result
- TB of lungs, airway, or larynx
- Patient not covering mouth or nose when coughing
- Not receiving adequate treatment or having prolonged illness
- Undergoing cough-inducing procedures
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Why does the site of disease affect the infectiousness of a TB patient?

Usually only people with pulmonary or laryngeal TB are infectious. These people may be coughing and expelling tubercle bacilli into air.

People with extrapulmonary TB are generally not infectious

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When can at Transient be transidered noninfectious? List all 3 criteria.

When they meet all of the following criteria:

- Received adequate TB treatment for a minimum of 2 weeks
- Symptoms have improved
- 3 consecutive negative sputum smears from sputum collected in 8-24 hour intervals (one being early morning specimen)
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- Infection control is an important strategy to prevent the spread of TB
 - Several outbreaks of TB in health care settings, including multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR TB), have occurred
- All health care and congregate settings should implement TB infection-control measures

TB is most likely to be transmitted when health care workers (HCWs) and patients come in contact with persons who:

Have unsuspected TB disease

- Are not receiving adequate treatment

Have not been isolated from others

TB Infection Control (3) Role of the Health Department

- Health department TB control programs should:
 - Ensure each of their clinics develop a TB infection-control program
 - Provide consultation about TB infection control to other health care and congregate settings

TB Infection Control (4) Role of the Health Department

- Health departments should specifically assist health care settings with:
 - Understanding infection control principles
 - Reporting confirmed or suspected TB cases
 - Conducting contact investigations
 - Ensuring a plan for TB patients to receive follow-up care after discharge
 - Conducting risk assessments, testing, surveillance, and outbreak investigations
 - Planning and implementation of TB control activities

TB Infection-Control Program (1)

- Main goals of a TB infection-control program are to ensure early and prompt:
 - Detection of TB disease

- Airborne precautions (e.g., isolation of people who have or are suspected of having TB disease)
- Treatment of people who have or are suspected of having TB disease

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TB Infection-Control Program (2) Detection of TB disease

- HCWs should suspect TB disease in anyone with any of these symptoms:
 - Persistent cough
 - Chest pain
 - Bloody sputum
 - Weight loss or loss of appetite
 - Fever
 - Chills



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TB Infection-Control Program (3)

- When a health time worker siespects that a patient has TB disease, the patient should be:
 - Placed in an area away from other patients and evaluated
 - Given a surgical mask to wear
 - Given tissues and asked to cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing

TB Infection-Control Program (4) Airborne Precautions

 Airborne precautions should be taken for any person who has signs or symptoms of TB disease

- If facility has an AII room, TB suspects and TB patients should be placed there
- Health care settings, such as TB clinics, should implement a respiratory-protection program

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TB Infection-Control Program (5) Treatment

- Patients diagnosed with TB should start treatment immediately
- DOT should be used to ensure adherence



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Under what circumstances is TB most likely to be transmitted in health care facilities?

TB is most likely to be transmitted when health care workers and patients come into contact with persons who:

- Have unsuspected TB disease
- · Are not receiving adequate treatment
- Have not been isolated from others
 Module 5 Infectiousness and Infection Control 23

TB Infection Control Study Question 5.5

How can the health department assist health care settings in preventing the spread of TB?

The health department can help health care facilities with:

- Understanding infection control principles
- Reporting confirmed or suspected TB cases
- Conducting contact investigations
- Ensuring there is a plan for TB patients to receive follow-up care after they are discharged
- Risk assessments, testing, surveillance, and outbreak investigations
- Planning and implementing TB control activities

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What are Steadyn Quests of a MB5 nfection-control program?

The main goals are to detect TB disease early and to promptly isolate and treat people who have TB disease.

What would mak the atthempression is suspect that a patient has TB disease?

- Persistent cough
- Bloody sputum
- Weight loss or loss of appetite
- · Fever
- Night sweats

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What should be done when a heather worker suspects that a patient has TB disease?

The patient should be

- Placed in an area away from other patients and evaluated
- Given surgical mask to wear
- Given tissues and asked to cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing

Patients who are diagnosed with TB should start appropriate treatment at once

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TB Infection Control Measures

TB Infection Control Measures (1) Hierarchy of Infection Control



Administrative Controls



Environmental Controls



Respiratory Protection

TB Infection Control Measures (2)

Three levels of control measures:

- Administrative controls: managerial measures to reduce risk of exposure to *M. tuberculosis*
- Environmental controls: engineering systems to prevent the spread of and reduce the concentration of infectious *M. tuberculosis* droplet nuclei in air
- Respiratory-protection controls: personal protection to further minimize risk for exposure to *M. tuberculosis*

TB Infection Control TB Infection Control Measures Administrative Controls

Administrative Controls (1)

- Administrative controls:
 - First and most important level of TB infection-control program
 - Goal is to reduce risk of exposure to persons who might have TB disease

Administrative Controls (2)

- Administrative control activities:
 - Assigning someone responsibility for TB infection control
 - Developing and implementing a written TB infection control plan
 - Conducting a TB risk assessment
 - Ensuring availability of prompt laboratory
 processing, testing, and reporting of results
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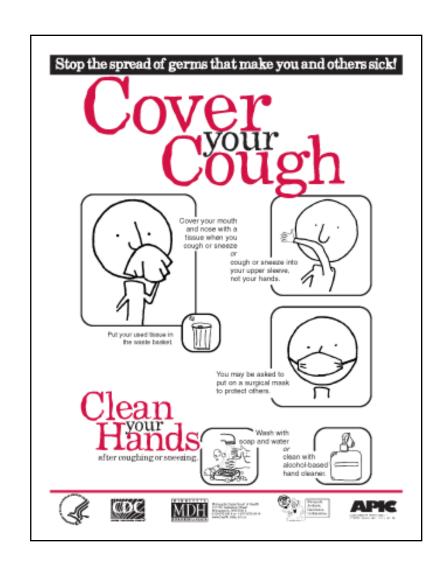
Administrative Controls (3)

- Administrative control activities (cont.):
 - Implementing effective work practices for managing patients who may have TB
 - Ensuring proper cleaning and sterilization or disinfection of equipment
 - Educating, training, and counseling HCWs about TB
 - Testing and evaluating workers who are at risk for TB or may be exposed to TB

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Administrative Controls (4)

- Administrative control activities (continued):
 - Applying epidemiologybased prevention principles
 - Using posters to remind patients of proper cough etiquette
 - Coordinating efforts between health departments and high risk settings



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TB Infection Control TB Infection Control Measures Environmental Controls

Environmental Controls

- Second level of infection-control program
- Consist of technologies that are designed to prevent the spread and reduce the concentration of TB in the air
 - Ventilation technologies
 - High efficiency particulate air filtration (HEPA)
 - Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI)
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Ventilation Technologies (1)

 Ventilation is the movement of air in a building and the replacement of air inside with air from outside

Ventilation technologies include:

Natural ventilation

Mechanical ventilation

Ventilation Technologies (2) Natural Ventilation

- Doors and windows should be open
- Fans can be used to distribute air
- HCW should sit near fresh air source
- Can be useful for nontraditional settings that do not have a central ventilation system



Ventilation Technologies (3) Mechanical Ventilation

- Refers to the use of technological equipment to circulate and move air
- Consists of two types of technologies
 - Local exhaust ventilation
 - General ventilation
- Should be used by hospitals, TB clinics, and other settings where TB patients are expected

Ventilation Technologies (4) Mechanical Ventilation

Local exhaust ventilation

- Stops airborne contaminants from spreading into general environment
- Includes external hoods, booths, and tents

Should be used for cough-inducing procedures

Ventilation Technologies (5) Mechanical Ventilation

- General ventilation systems:
 - Dilute contaminated air

- Remove contaminated air

 Control airflow patterns in patient and procedure rooms (e.g., negative pressure in AII room)

Ventilation Technologies (6) Mechanical Ventilation

- AII rooms are designed to prevent spread of droplet nuclei expelled by patient
 - Negative pressure
 - Clean air flows from corridors into AII room
- Air cannot escape AII room

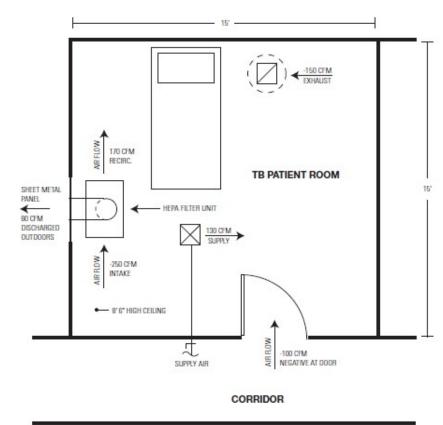


Image credit: Curry International TB Center

 Exhausted outdoors or passed through filter

HEPA Filters

- HEPA filters are special filters used to remove droplet nuclei from air
- Must be used when releasing air from:
 - Local exhaust ventilation booths to surrounding area
 - AII room to general ventilation system

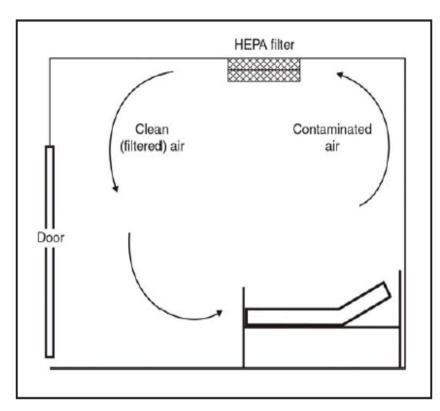


Image credit: Curry International TB Center

UVGI

- UVGI is air cleaning technology that consists of lamps that give off UV light, which can kill tubercle bacilli
- Should be used with other infection control measures
- UV light can be harmful to skin and eyes

Upper-air UVGI in a dormitory

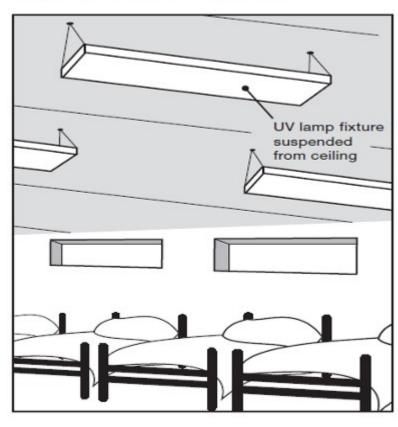


Image credit: Curry International TB Center

TB Infection Control

TB Infection Control Measures Respiratory-Protection Controls

Respiratory-Protection Controls (1)

- Third level of infection-control that includes:
 - Implementing a respiratory-protection program
 - Training health care workers on respiratoryprotection
 - Educating patients on respiratory hygiene

Respiratory-Protection Controls (2) Personal Respirators

- Respirators filter out droplet nuclei
- Should be used in:
 - TB AII rooms
 - Rooms where cough-inducing or aerosol generating procedures are done
 - Ambulances transporting infectious TB patients
 - Homes of infectious TB patients
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Respiratory-Protection Controls (3) Personal Respirators

- Important that respirator fits properly:
 - Fit test used to determine which respirator to wear
 - User seal check should be done each time a respirator is put on



Health care worker undergoing a fit test Image credit: Paul Jensen

Respiratory-Protection Controls (4) Personal Respirators

- Respirators that can be used to protect against *M. tuberculosis*:
 - Nonpowered respirators with N95, N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, P95, P99, and P100 filters
 - Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) with high-efficiency filters
 - Supplied-air respirators





Image credit: Greg Knobloch

Respiratory-Protection Controls (5) Respirators and Surgical Masks

- Important to understand the difference between respirators and surgical masks
 - Respirators protect individuals from <u>inhaling</u> droplet nuclei
 - Surgical masks stop droplet nuclei from being <u>exhaled</u> into air by infectious TB patients or suspects

Respiratory-Protection Controls (6) Respirators



Health care worker wearing a personal respirator

Respiratory-Protection Controls (7) Surgical Masks



Patient wearing a surgical mask

TB Infection-Control

What are thickly requestion too the last form the basis of a TB infection-control program?

Administrative controls

Environmental controls

Respiratory-protection controls

Administrative Controls Study Question 5.10

List 5 administrative control measures that should be taken in health care settings to reduce the risk of exposure to persons who may have TB disease.

- Assign responsibility for TB infection control
- Conduct TB risk assessment
- Develop and implement a written TB infection-control plan
- Ensure prompt availability of recommended laboratory processing, testing, and reporting of results
- Implement effective work practices for the management of patients
- Ensure proper cleaning, sterilization, or disinfection of equipment
- Train and educate health care workers
- Test and evaluate health care workers for TB
- Apply epidemiology-based prevention principles
- Use posters and signs educating and advising respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Coordinate efforts with health department and high-risk health care and congregate settings

Environmental Controls

Where Stoudys Quesition,11 bronchoscopy, or other cough-inducing procedures be done?

These medical procedures should be done in special **AII** rooms or sputum induction booths to prevent any droplet nuclei expelled during the procedure from reaching other parts of the facility.

Environmental Controls Study Question 5.12

What is a TB AII room? What are the important characteristics of an AII room?

Airborne infection isolation (AII) rooms have special characteristics to prevent spread of droplet nuclei expelled by a TB patient. They are at negative pressure relative to other parts of the facility, and air from the room is exhausted directly to the outdoors or passed through a filter.

Ventilation Systems Study Question 5.13

How do ventilation systems help prevent the spread of TB?

Ventilation systems maintain negative pressure and exhaust air properly. These systems can also be designed to minimize the spread of TB in other areas of the facility.

Ventilation Systems Study Question 5.14

Give 4 examples of settings where personal respirators should be used.

- · TB AII rooms
- Rooms where cough-inducing procedures are done
- Ambulances or other vehicles transporting infectious TB patients
- Homes of infectious TB patients 59

Respiratory Protection-Controls Study Question 5.15

What is the difference in use between a respirator and a surgical mask?

- Respirators protect individuals from inhaling droplet nuclei
- Surgical masks stop droplet nuclei from being <u>exhaled</u> into the air by the person wearing them

TB Infection Control TB Risk Assessment

TB Risk Assessment (1)

- Administrative control measure
- Helps to inform infection control plan
- Determines types of controls needed for setting
- Serves as an initial and ongoing monitoring and evaluation tool for infection-control program
- Helps determine frequency of employee
 testing
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TB Risk Assessment (2)

- Risk assessment examines many factors, including:
 - Number of patients with TB disease in setting
 - Promptness of detection, isolation, and evaluation of patients with suspected or confirmed TB
 - Evidence of transmission of *M. tuberculosis* in setting
 - Community rate of TB disease
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TB Risk Classification

Low risk

Persons with TB disease are not expected to be encountered

Medium risk

- Possible exposure to persons with TB disease
- Possible exposure to clinical TB specimens

Potential ongoing transmission

 Setting where there is evidence of person-to-person transmission of *M. tuberculosis* in past year

TB Testing Frequency

TB Risk Classification	Frequency for TB Testing
Low Risk	Conduct baseline test when health care worker is hired
	No further testing needed unless
	exposure occurs
Medium Risk	Conduct baseline test when health care worker is hired
	Repeat test annually
	Conduct baseline test when health care worker is hired
Potential Ongoing Transmission	• Repeat test every 8 to 10 weeks
	until there is no evidence of <i>M.</i>
	tuberculosis transmission in setting

TB Infection Control

Infection Control in Nontraditional Facility–Based Settings

Special Considerations (1)

 Nontraditional facility-based settings where TB patients receive care should establish and follow an infection-control program

- Includes settings such as:
 - Nursing homes
 - Correctional facilities
 - Homeless shelters
 - Drug treatment centers
 - Emergency medical services
 - Home-based health care
 - Outreach settings

Special Considerations (2) Correctional Facilities

- Medical settings within correctional facilities should:
 - Classify as medium risk or higher

Test all staff annually

Implement a respiratory-protection program with at least one AII room

Special Considerations (3) Correctional Facilities

- Medical settings within correctional facilities should (cont.):
 - Have inmates with suspected or confirmed TB disease wear surgical mask when transported
 - Establish and maintain a tracking system for inmate testing and treatment

Special Considerations (4) Homeless Shelters

- Should observe the same TB infectioncontrol measures as outpatient clinics
- Several factors in shelter environment can influence likelihood of TB transmission:

- Crowdedness of shelter

Ventilation system of shelter

Special Considerations (5) Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- EMS workers should be included in TB testing program based on risk for the setting
- Persons with infectious TB who are transported in ambulance should wear surgical mask
- Drivers, health care workers, and other staff should consider wearing a respirator
- Ambulance should allow for maximum amount of outdoor air to be circulated in vehicle

Special Considerations (6) Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs)

- LTCFs (e.g., hospices and nursing homes) should:
 - Symptom screen and possibly test new employees and residents
 - Have administrative and environmental controls <u>IF</u> they accept patients with infectious TB
- Persons with TB disease who are noninfectious can stay in LTCFs and do not need AII room

TB Infection Control TB Infection Control in the Home

TB Infection Control in the Home (1) Patient Returning Home

TB patients and TB suspects may be sent home after starting treatment, even though they may be infectious

TB Infection Control in the Home (2) Patient Returning Home

- Criteria for patient to return home:
 - Follow-up plan has been made with the local TB program
 - Patient on TB treatment and DOT arranged
 - No infants or children younger than 5 years of age or persons with immunocompromising conditions in home

TB Infection Control in the Home (3) Patient Returning Home

- Criteria for patient to return home (cont.):
 - All household members have already been exposed to TB patient
 - Patient is willing to not travel outside of home until sputum smear results are negative

TB Infection Control in the Home (4) Patient Returning Home

- TB patients and members of household should take steps to prevent spread of TB
- Patients with TB should be instructed to:
 - Cover mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing
 - Sleep alone
 - Not have visitors until noninfectious

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TB Infection Control in the Home (5) Health Care Workers (HCWs)

- HCWs should:
 - Be trained in detecting TB signs and symptoms
 - Take precautions to protect themselves:
 - Instruct patient to cover mouth when coughing
 - Wear personal respirator
 - Collect sputum in well-ventilated areas
 - · Partiginate in TB testing and prevention programs

TB Risk Assessment Study Question 5.16

What are 3 different TB risk classifications that can be assigned to health care settings?

· Low risk

· Medium risk

Potential ongoing transmission

TB Risk Assessment

Depending on risk classification, how often should health care settings test workers for TB?

- Low Risk Settings
 - Conduct TB baseline test when HCW is hired
 - No further testing needed unless exposure occurs

Medium Risk Settings

- Conduct TB baseline test when HCW is hired
- Repeat test annually

Potential Ongoing Transmission

- Conduct baseline test when HCW is hired
- Repeat test 8-10 weeks until there is no longer evidence of *M.*Modble & Holste transmission in the stating ontrol 80

TB Infection Control in the Home Study Question 5.18 What precautions should a health care

What precautions should a health care worker take when visiting the home of a TB patient who may be infectious?

- Instruct patients to cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Wear a personal respirator
- · Collect sputum specimen in a well-ventilated area
- Participate in a TB testing and prevention program

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Case Studies

Module 5: Case Study 5.1

For each of the following situations, decide whether the patient should be considered infectious or non-infectious, and explain why.

Module 5: Case Study 5.1 Question 5A

Two weeks ago, Mr. Lopez had a sputum smear that was positive; since then no sputum specimens have been tested. Mr. Lopez started self-administered TB treatment 7 days ago. He still has a cough.

Module 5: Case Study 5.1 Question 5A: Answer

- Mr. Lopez should be considered infectious
- Should be given his treatment by DOT to ensure he receives adequate treatment
- Does not meet the criteria for noninfectiousness because:
 - He has been receiving treatment for only 7 days, not 2 weeks
 - His symptoms have not improved
 - He does not have 3 consecutive negative sputum smears

Module 5: Case Study 5.1 Question 5B

Ms. Nguyen, a patient with pulmonary TB, has been receiving DOT treatment for 6 weeks and no longer has symptoms of TB. She has had three sputum smears. The first one was positive, but the last two were negative.

Module 5: Case Study 5.1 Question 5B: Answer

- Ms. Nguyen should be considered infectious until she has 3 consecutive negative sputum smears
- She meets the first 2 criteria for noninfectiousness:
 - Has been receiving treatment for at least 2 weeks
 - Her symptoms have improved

Module 5: Case Study 5.1 Question 5C

Mr. Martin started DOT treatment for pulmonary TB in April. His symptoms went away and his sputum smears were negative in May. However, the outreach worker was unable to locate him on June 5th and has not been able to contact him since that time. Mr. Martin returned to the TB clinic on August 2nd, and was still coughing.

Module 5: Case Study 5.1 Question 5C: Answer

- Mr. Martin, at this point, should be considered infectious
- He might have been noninfectious in May, but it appears that he may be infectious again
 - Has been coughing and has not received adequate treatment since June 4th
- Should be evaluated for infectiousness and nonadherence to treatment

Module 5: Case Study 5.2 (1)

You are checking patients into the TB clinic. An elderly man comes to the desk and says he was told to come and get checked because one of his friends has TB. You notice that he looks sick and is coughing frequently. The waiting room is full of patients, and you know it will probably be more than an hour before the physician can see him.

Module 5: Case Study 5.2 (2)

- What should you do?
 - Suspect that this man has infectious TB and work with clinical staff to ensure he is evaluated for TB quickly
 - Give him a surgical mask, instruct him to keep it on, and ask him to cover his mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
 - Move the man to an area away from other patients right away

Module 5: Case Study 5.3 (1)

You are sent to deliver directly observed therapy (DOT) to a woman who started treatment last week for suspected pulmonary TB. Her sputum smear results are not back yet. You are asked to collect another sputum specimen while you are at the woman's home.

Module 5: Case Study 5.3 (2)

- What precautions should you take?
 - Instruct patient to cover her mouth and nose when she coughs or sneezes.
 - Wear a personal respirator when visiting her home.
 - Collect sputum in well-ventilated area, away from other household members.
 - Participate in a TB testing and prevention program