



## Latent Tuberculosis Treatment

*At University of Washington Medical Center*

*This handout explains how latent tuberculosis is treated at University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC).*

### About Latent Tuberculosis

Latent tuberculosis (TB) is when a person is infected with the germ that causes TB, but they are not sick and do not have any symptoms of TB.

**People who have latent TB cannot spread TB to others.**

You have been advised to have treatment for latent TB at the Latent Tuberculosis Direct Observation Therapy (DOT) Program at UWMC.

- **If you are having a transplant and have latent TB**, it is important to treat it before your transplant. This is because your body's immune system will be weakened by *immunosuppression* drugs (drugs that keep your body from rejecting the transplanted organ) after your transplant. If it is not treated, latent TB can become active and cause serious health problems.
- **If you are donating an organ to someone and have latent TB**, it is also important to treat it. The person who receives your organ will have a weakened immune system after transplant. This increases the chance that the latent TB can become active and cause serious health problems for them. Treating your latent TB will lower the risk of passing TB to the person who receives your organ.

**Remember, if you have latent TB, you cannot spread TB to others.**

### The Latent TB DOT Program

Treatment in the Latent TB DOT Program lasts 12 weeks. On the same day of the week for 12 weeks, you will see a nurse at the Medical Specialties Clinic at UWMC. You and the nurse will work out a day and time that work well with your schedule.

Each time you come to the clinic, the nurse will verify your name and birth date. Then the nurse will watch you take the prescribed medicines.



*For your treatment, you will come to the Medical Specialties Clinic at UWMC once a week for 12 weeks.*

## Medicines You Will Take

The medicines you will take are:

- Isoniazid: 900 mg
- Rifapentine: 900 mg
- Vitamin B<sub>6</sub> (pyridoxine): 50 mg

## During Your Treatment

- You may have side effects from the medicines, including nausea, vomiting, dark urine, fatigue, fever, abdominal tenderness, easy bruising, and bleeding. To check for side effects, you will have a liver function test every 2 weeks while you are in the Latent TB DOT Program. To do this test, we will take a blood sample from a vein. Your nurse will also check you for side effects at each visit.
- It is important to tell your primary care provider that you are enrolled in the Latent TB DOT Program. Tell this provider the medicines you are receiving in the program.
- It is very important **not** to drink alcohol or take any other medicines, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) that could harm your liver. Ask your nurse in the Latent TB DOT Program what other medicines you should avoid.
- If you start taking a new medicine, tell your nurse in the DOT program so that any possible problems can be found.
- It is important that you come to **all** of your appointments during your 12-week treatment. Call the Transplant Infectious Disease Nurse at 206-598-4615 if you have any questions.

## To Learn More

Your nurse will give you more information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on tuberculosis, latent tuberculosis, and treatments. You can also find articles by the CDC online:

- To read “TB Elimination: Treatment Options for Latent Tuberculosis Infection,” visit:  
[www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/treatment/LTBI/treatment\\_options.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/treatment/LTBI/treatment_options.pdf)
- To read “TB Elimination: The Difference Between Latent TB Infection and TB Disease,” visit:  
[www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/general/LTBIandActiveTB.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/general/LTBIandActiveTB.pdf)

### Questions?

Your questions are important. Please call the Transplant Infectious Disease Nurse if you have any questions.

Transplant Infectious Disease Nurse:  
206-598-4615