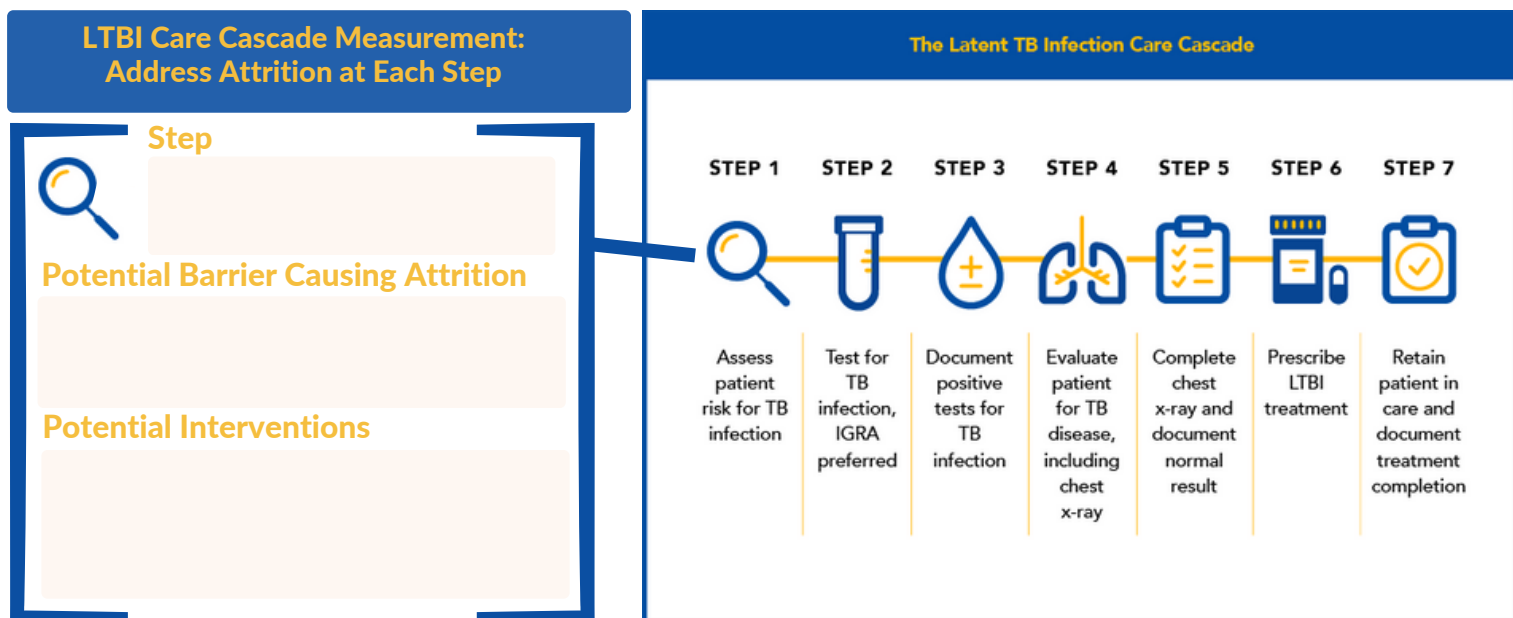


# LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION (LTBI) CARE CASCADE: ADDRESSING COMMON BARRIERS

Courtesy of TB Free CA, [Preventing Tuberculosis in Your Clinical Setting: A Practical Guidebook](#). Richmond, CA. April 2022.



Step	Potential Barrier	Potential Interventions
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<p><b>1. Assess Patient Risk for TB Infection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providers may be unaware who is at risk and should be tested for TB infection.</li> <li>Patients may be unaware that they can still get TB if they have had BCG vaccine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add the <b>San Diego County TB Risk Assessment</b> to routine health maintenance screen or to a well visit chart note template.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>2. Test For TB Infection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenging to order a TB test for patients at risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate TB blood test, Interferon-Gamma Release Assays (<b>IGRA</b>), as a <b>standing order</b> based on risk or add to routine lab order sets.</li> <li>Display <b>patient education materials</b> on TB in clinic.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>3. Document Positive Tests for TB Infection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients may not come back to have Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) read.</li> <li>TST results are in an inconsistent, qualitative format.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer IGRA tests to patients aged <math>\geq 2</math> yrs when available (if IGRA not available, use TST).</li> <li>Work with local lab to discuss pricing and bring blood draw on-site, with electronic reporting.</li> </ul>
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**KNOW YOUR TB STATUS. GET TESTED. IF POSITIVE, TAKE MEDICATION.**



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



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STEP 1    STEP 2    STEP 3    STEP 4    STEP 5    STEP 6    STEP 7



Step	Potential Barrier	Potential Interventions
<p><b>4. Evaluate for TB Disease</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients may not perceive the importance of a chest x-ray (CXR).</li> <li>• Patients may not be able to readily access x-ray services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Patient education</b> provided at time of TB testing so, if the test is positive, the patient understands next steps.</li> <li>• An assigned <b>LTBI care coordinator</b> can use an EMR-generated report to follow-up &amp; ensure patients complete the CXR.</li> <li>• Identify patient-centered options for imaging.</li> <li>• Help patients anticipate co-pays/costs associated with their health plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Complete Chest X-Ray and Document Normal Result</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chest x-ray results may not be well-integrated into the EMR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinics can work to bring x-ray onsite; co-locate radiology services in clinics with high prevalence of LTBI.</li> <li>• Develop a standardized method to document results using predictive phrases or templates and the ICD-10 code for LTBI.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Prescribe LTBI Treatment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers may be unfamiliar with newer, shorter-course LTBI treatment regimens, and patients may be uninterested because they feel well &amp; treatment is long.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provider education</b> on the efficacy of newer, shorter LTBI regimens and drug interactions.</li> <li>• Clinic flow modified to offer <b>short-course rifamycin-based regimens as an “opt out”</b> for patients with a positive TB test.</li> <li>• <b>Create standard order sets</b> – ensure preferred LTBI medications easily accessible within EHR template.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Retain Patient in Care and Document Treatment Completion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers may be unaware whether patients complete LTBI treatment.</li> <li>• Treatment completion is not documented on the patient chart.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LTBI care coordinator</b> follows up with patients, <b>documents treatment completion</b> using:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New discrete field for treatment completion date;</li> <li>2. If medications not completed, reason stopped field.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

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