

Medication Education

Medication Educator

Patients should not consume alcohol, as TB medications can lead to liver toxicity. Proper education given to the patient regarding the importance of following medication prescriptions is imperative for the successful eradication of the organisms.

3 Negative Sputum Specimens

(3) Tree Negative (-) from Spit-thumb

Patients are considered noninfectious during drug therapy when 3 consecutive sputum specimens are negative. Sputum specimens are collected every 2 to 4 weeks throughout the drug therapy regimen. Patients are cleared to return to work after 3 specimens return negative.

Infection Control

Bacteria Control-station

Teach patients to cover their mouth and nose when coughing and to use a plastic bag for used tissues. Close family members are tested and may be placed on prophylactic TB medication. Patients should sleep alone until noninfectious. Avoid public and crowded settings until noninfectious, or wear a regular surgery mask when in public.