

Learning the Facts about Tuberculosis (TB)

TB usually can be cured. But first it must be detected. Are you at risk?

What is TB?¹

Tuberculosis – called TB for short – is a disease that usually affects the lungs. It is spread through the air when a person with TB coughs or sneezes. Even laughing can spread TB germs. Over time, TB can spread through the body, causing muscle, joint and organ damage, and even death.

What is latent TB?²

Sometimes TB germs can live in people without making them sick. This is called “latent TB.” People with latent TB should still get treated to prevent them from developing TB disease. Once a person develops TB disease, he or she can spread the disease to others, such as family members or coworkers. If you have been around someone with TB, you should see your doctor right away to be tested.

Who is most at risk?³

Some people who have latent TB must take medicine to prevent TB disease. Those at highest risk include:

- Infants and young children
- Older adults and those with other health problems
- People with HIV
- Long-term drug or alcohol abusers



Know the symptoms.⁴

A person who has TB disease likely will feel ill and his or her symptoms may get worse over time. Some common symptoms are:

- A cough that does not go away
- Coughing up blood or having chest pain when coughing
- Vomiting, fever or night sweats
- Feeling tired and weak all the time

We are here to help you.

If you think you may have TB, see your doctor right away to get tested. To learn more about TB, talk to your doctor or nurse. You also can call our Customer Care Center or MedCall®, the 24-hour nurse help line, for more information.



BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid

Customer Care Center: **1-866-781-5094**

TTY line: **1-866-773-9634**

MedCall: **1-866-577-9710**

TTY line: **1-800-368-4424**

www.bluechoicescmedicaid.com

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

1-800-232-4636

TTY lines are only for members with hearing and speech loss.



Medicaid

Sources: ^{1,2,3}Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Tuberculosis (TB)* (Accessed August 2009):
<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/general/tb.htm>

⁴Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Is It TB? Learn the Signs and Symptoms of Tuberculosis* (Accessed August, 2009):
<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/TBawareness/>

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