

Protecting your Workforce from TB



A TB/MDR TB Workplace Awareness-building Toolkit



Preface

This Awareness-Building Tuberculosis/Multi-Drug Resistant TB (MDR TB) Toolkit has been developed by the Global Health Initiative of the World Economic Forum, with the support of Eli Lilly, and in partnership with the International Council of Nurses. It is especially designed to support companies that are starting to implement TB workplace programmes and those with existing programmes.

There are 8 million new TB cases, 2 million deaths and an estimated 400,000 new cases of MDR TB around the world every year. Yet TB can be treated and cured. What's more, the internationally recognized strategy for TB control – the DOTS strategy – has proven remarkably effective. The World Bank has described the DOTS strategy as one of the “most cost-effective of all health interventions”.

Encouragingly, businesses in different countries have started to implement TB control and DOTS programmes in their workplaces; however, one common challenge they face is how to increase employee awareness of TB and how to educate workers and health staff on the symptoms of TB and treatment possibilities. This toolkit aims to help companies in this situation – it's a ready-to-use toolkit that can allow companies to raise staff's awareness of TB and how to treat it effectively.

Things to remember about TB:

- TB is curable. A TB patient needs care and support and can be infectious if not treated.
- A cough for three weeks or more, low grade fever with an evening rise in temperature, loss of weight and appetite, pain in the chest, blood while coughing may be symptoms of tuberculosis.
- Workplace TB care is simple and low cost.
- DOTS is the best way to ensure treatment success.
- MDR TB can be avoided by following DOTS but if it develops, it can be managed by appropriate DOTS strategy.

The toolkit is meant for:

- Managers who aim to implement TB workplace programmes
- Healthcare professionals, e.g., physicians, nurses and allied health professionals, who should have a good knowledge of TB
- Employees who are infected with TB.

Materials in the toolkit can help you:

- Raise general employee awareness of TB and its symptoms
- Support TB patients at work
- Provide information on TB for human resources departments, healthcare professionals (e.g., physicians, nurses and allied health professionals), and other care and support staff
- Provide constant reminders to company employees about key facts through the poster and leaflets included in this kit.

The toolkit deals with:

- How to put a TB workplace policy in place and what the key elements should be
- What the symptoms for TB are and how to diagnose it
- What treatment regimen should be followed to ensure treatment success
- How to manage multi-drug resistant TB (MDR TB)
- How to engage employees in TB care and make it an easy topic to deal with at the workplace.

Inside the toolkit you will find:

1. An introduction to TB at the workplace for management staff
2. A series of fact sheets for healthcare professionals (1-5)
3. Posters and leaflets for employee education.

List of Useful Links

World Economic Forum

Workplace Management Guidelines:

www.weforum.org/pdf/Initiatives/GHI_Guidelines_WHO_TB.pdf

Case Studies: www.weforum.org/globalhealth

India Business Alliance to Stop TB:

www.weforum.org/globalhealth/indiabusinessalliance

Eli Lilly

More information on MDR TB and its management:

www.lillymdr-tb.com

Guidelines for the Management of Drug-resistant tuberculosis:

[whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1997/WHO_TB_96.210_\(Rev.1\).pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1997/WHO_TB_96.210_(Rev.1).pdf)

International Council of Nurses (ICN)

TB/MDR TB Global Resource Centre:

www.icn.ch/tb/index.html

TB Guidelines for Nurses in the Care and Control of Tuberculosis and Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis:

www.icn.ch/tb/guidelines.htm

World Health Organization

More information on TB/MDR TB, DOTS: www.who.int.org

Stop TB Partnership: www.stoptb.org

Patient Voice: www.tbvtv.org

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