



Discharge of a Suspected or Confirmed Tuberculosis (TB) Patient

Legal Authority

California State Health and Safety Code mandates that patients with confirmed or suspected TB be reported to the local health department within one working day of diagnosis. **Patients with confirmed or suspected TB may not be discharged or transferred from a healthcare facility without prior approval from the local health department** (Exception: the patient is being transferred to another facility due to an immediate need for a higher level of care).

In the case of an emergent transfer, please submit:

- Request for hospital discharge with the TB Discharge Case Report form located at: <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/650/Communicable-Disease-Control-Reporting> as outlined below indicating the name and location of the accepting facility, even if all of the TB diagnostic information requested is not available.

Discharge Approval Process

In order to ensure timely and appropriate discharge, facilities should notify the Nevada County Public Health Department (NCPHD) TB Control Program **at least 2-3 days** before the anticipated discharge date. **Please fax the TB Discharge Case Report form documentation requested to 530-271-0836.** TB Control Program staff will review the request and notify the submitter of approval or of the need for additional information/action prior to discharge. If a patient is still infectious, a home evaluation may be required to ensure the environment is suitable.

General Criteria for Discharge:

- TB Medications:** Patient is taking and tolerating all prescribed TB medications. (Pt. is not vomiting meds and liver enzymes are stable)
- TB Medications:** Plan for continued, uninterrupted medications provided and in hand for discharge.
- AFB sputum smears negative x 3.** Sputum specimens for AFB must be collected at least 8 hours apart, and at least one specimen must be an early morning specimen, an induced specimen, or collected by bronchoalveolar lavage.
- Home Evaluation:** There are no immunocompromised individuals or children under 5 years old residing at the site to which the patient is being released, unless these individuals have been medically evaluated and are on appropriate preventive treatment.
 - Patient is returning to the same household where he/she resided prior to hospitalization, **OR**
 - Alternative residence has been determined to be appropriate by NCPHD.
- Validate patient address:** The patient's address and phone number have been verified.

Criteria for Public Health Approval to Discharge an Infectious Patient:

- Home Evaluation:** Household members who are immunocompromised or who are less than 5 years of age have been evaluated for TB disease and started on empiric treatment for active TB or latent TB infection.
- Patient Understanding:** The patient demonstrates understanding of the TB diagnosis and is aware that NCPHD staff will continue to follow the patient once he/she is discharged.
- Home Isolation Agreement:** The patient signs the agreement to the conditions of home isolation.

Note: If the patient is to be discharged to another county, NCPHD still needs to approve the discharge and communicate with the county of residence. Other counties may have additional requirements for discharge.