



Minnesota
Department
of Health

PROTECTING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS

January 30, 2017

Dear Local Public Health Tuberculosis Partner:

For many years we have provided tuberculosis (TB) medications at no cost to all patients in Minnesota, regardless of their ability to pay. To reserve our limited funds for patients who require costly medications due to complicated cases of TB disease, we need to determine if patients enrolled in our program have prescription coverage and then bill their insurer. MDH will continue to pay for TB medications for those who are uninsured/uninsurable and pay co-pays for those that are underinsured.

What does this mean for you?

- **Provide legible, current, and complete prescription coverage when medication requests (other than INH) are first submitted**, including Medicaid, and/or Medicare Part D information, by attaching a photocopy, print-out, or using the designated area on the MDH medication forms. Specifically:
 - Clear, enlarged photocopy of both sides of the card or
 - Legibly transcribe the name of insurer, patient ID#, Rx bin and Rx group, and the customer service phone number. Link to newly revised forms <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/tb/meds/index.html>.
 - If the patient lacks prescription coverage, please indicate the reason.
 - Notify MDH if your patient's coverage changes during the course of treatment.
- Remind providers to include prescription coverage information when making referrals to LPH and/or with their initial medication request.
- Follow up with patients when providers forget to collect the needed information.
- Provide uninsured patients with assistance in acquiring medical and prescription coverage, with focus on suspect and confirmed active TB patients and latent TB infection (LTBI) contacts being treated with second line TB drugs.
- Reassure patients that the medications will continue to be free to them.

We know this increases your workload and we appreciate your assistance. If you have questions, please contact our TB Medications Coordinator Lenette Bauer at 651-201-5506 or lenette.bauer@state.mn.us or TB Unit Manager Sarah Gordon at 651-201-5550 or sarah.gordon@state.mn.us. As always, thank you for all that you do to help keep our communities free from TB.

Sincerely,

Krissie Guerard
STD/HIV/TB Section Manager
Minnesota Department of Health
651-201-4007
krissie.guerard@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us/tb