



Date: September 10, 2024
To: Pharmacists
From: Communicable Disease Control Program
Re: **Tuberculosis (TB) Medications**

All medications used in the treatment of active or latent tuberculosis (TB) are publicly funded. **First line drugs are available to TB patients free of charge from their local public health unit.** Physicians, pharmacists and hospitals should have patients acquire the medications through the NBPSDHU. The physician can send the patient to the NBPSDHU with a prescription to obtain these medications. If the patient is inadvertently sent to the pharmacist, the pharmacist should contact or refer the patient to the NBPSDHU. In some instances, the pharmacy provides the medications free of charge to the client; medications and dispensing fees are covered by the NBPSDHU.

The following are first line drugs provided by the NBPSDHU:		
Isoniazid syrup 10 mg/mL	Ethambutol HCL Tab 100 mg	Pyrazinamide Tab 500 mg
Isoniazid Tab 100 mg	Ethambutol HCL Tab 400 mg	Pyridoxine HCL Tab 25 mg
Isoniazid Tab 300 mg	Rifampin Cap 150 mg	Rifampin Cap 300 mg

Medications used to treat drug resistant TB and/or TB in people who are unable to tolerate certain drugs due to health issues, are referred to as **second line TB drugs. They are provided free of charge for patients infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex.** Second-line drugs that are authorized for sale in Canada are obtained from community pharmacies. Costs for second-line drugs will be reimbursed by the health unit.

Please obtain first line medications that are prescribed for the treatment of TB through your local health unit.
PATIENTS SHOULD NOT BE CHARGED FOR THESE MEDICATIONS.

Please contact the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Program at 705-474-1400 or toll-free at 1-800-563-2808, ext. 5229 if you have any questions, or if a patient presents with a prescription for TB treatment.

Ministry of Health (2023). Tuberculosis Program Guideline, 2023. Retrieved from: <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-guidelines-tuberculosis-program-guideline-en-2023.pdf>.