

Job Description

Position: TB Regional Nurse Consultant

Agency/Division: ISDH TB/Refugee Health

Reports To: TB/Refugee Health Director

Location: Field position, covering mid-west portion of Indiana (Vermillion to Marion County, Tippecanoe to Owen County)

Summary

The purpose of this position is to decrease the transmission of TB in Indiana through the provision of information, technical support, and oversight of case management and contact investigations for suspected and verified cases of TB. The incumbent serves as a TB public health expert providing technical support to local health departments, infection control practitioners in hospitals, long term care facilities and congregate settings such as schools and jails, physicians, TB patients, family members, work site administrators, contacts of TB patients and the general public. This position plays a key role in any TB outbreak or expanded screening and provides surge capacity to the local health departments in this role.

Essential Duties/Responsibilities

The incumbent builds rapport with local health department public health nurses, health officers, and other medical providers. He/she contacts and trains new public health nurses on the responsibilities of the local health department in reporting, isolating, treating, managing and investigating TB. He/she also provides TST training to public health nurses and assists with locating forms and educational material.

He/she provides oversight of TB case management by reviewing treatment plans for appropriate drugs, dosages, schedule and length, reviewing laboratory results to identify isolation requirements, monitoring for conversion of sputa to AFB smear and culture negative, assures HIV testing is completed, reviews radiology reports for case ascertainment, assists nurse case managers in assessing the need for incentives or enablers, and documents per protocol in the TB database. He/she monitors timely submission of reports, accompanies nurse case managers on home visits, and assists public health nurses to access incentives and enablers to ensure treatment completion.

He/she provides oversight of contact investigations and assists public health nurses to identify and prioritize contacts for evaluation. He/she assists in the identification of outbreaks, helps with screening of contacts, and ensures that contacts are placed on window prophylaxis as needed. The incumbent determines if the investigation needs to be expanded and provides information on the contact investigation at case/cohort review and to his/her supervisor.

The incumbent monitors timely submission of reports and evaluates the need for changes in the case management plan for the patient. He/she reviews charts for quality assurance purposes in local health departments for accuracy and completeness of reported surveillance information. He/she participates in Case/Cohort Review by presenting or having the local health department

present suspects and cases of TB and communicate any suggestions for change in treatment or management to the local health department.

The incumbent monitor's suspect cases for appropriate treatment, changes in health status related to treatment, prepares documentation for timely disposition and ensures that LTBI treatment is offered to the patient if appropriate.

He/she builds rapport with hospital infection control personnel and contacts hospital to share updated information about TB treatment, prevention, and control.

The incumbent will be knowledgeable about TB and remain current on new trends, treatments, best practice models, and legislation concerning TB at both the State and National level.

He/she will perform other activities as assigned including surge capacity to local health departments.

Job Requirements

- Extensive knowledge of all aspects of TB pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment, control and prevention.
- Extensive knowledge of and ability to interpret federal and state laws, rules, regulations and policies pertaining to TB.
- Ability to identify, communicate and work effectively with medical providers, local health department staff, and patients.
- Ability to communicate effectively in English both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to independently assess, evaluate and respond to situations appropriately and professionally, seek guidance when needed and keep supervisor current on cases and their status.
- Proficient in using Microsoft Office and the ability to quickly learn other database applications
- Ability to promote cultural competences in health providers working with foreign-born individuals.
- Ability to maintain the confidentiality and security of TB patient data.
- Applicant must possess a current and valid RN license in the State of Indiana, at least 3 years' experience in public health and one year experience in working with TB control and prevention. A B.S.N. from an accredited college or university, an MPH or masters in another health related field preferred.
- Must have a valid Indiana Driver's License, reliable transportation and availability to travel extensively within the state including overnight travel. Occasional out of state travel is required.
- Must have or obtain within 3 months of hire, TST and HIV testing and counseling validation from an approved source.

Supervisory Responsibilities/Direct Reports

None.

Difficulty of Work

This position requires autonomy in decision making with supervisory input and assistance on only the most critical or unusual issues and situations. The incumbent must be able to apply and make judgements and decisions based on their in-depth knowledge of TB pathogenesis, treatment, control and prevention, surveillance, and the application of the ten essential services of public health. He/she must be able to interpret chest x-rays and lab results in order to provide technical support to public health nurses and make critical decisions about isolation. This nurse must be able to effectively communicate and influence medical providers/public health staff and patients to comply with best practice models. He/she must understand and enforce state and federal laws and standards for isolation, treatment completion and directly observed therapy. He/she may frequently work with health care providers/public health staff who are reluctant to follow best practice models in the treatment and prevention of TB. Work requires management and synthesis of multiple streams of information and the ability to seek out needed information, make quick, accurate and evidence based decisions or judgements. This person must be able to rank and manage multiple and competing priorities. Critical thinking and excellent decision making skills are required with a clear understanding of the scope of public health nursing. The incumbent is privy to sensitive personal health information of patients which must be kept confidential. Failure to perform work appropriately could result in preventable transmission of TB, death of a patient, or a law suit.

Responsibility

The incumbent must have the ability

- to rapidly assess situations and respond appropriately to prevent undesirable outcomes.
- to stay current on new technologies and advances in TB prevention and control, interpret and evaluate research for its efficacy.
- to apply policies and protocols to the diagnosis of TB, case management and contact investigation while in the field with minimum or no supervisory oversight or input.
- to provide current and accurate information about TB diagnosis, treatment, management, and prevention
- to train local health department staff and implement new protocols for TB control and prevention.
- to identify issues needing supervisory input and be proactive in reporting to supervisor.
- to maintain high level of confidentiality on all patient and staff personal protected information.

Personal Work Relationships

Incumbent works closely with all TB/Refugee Health Program staff, staff from other ISDH divisions, local health departments, public health nurses, health officers, physicians, infection control practitioners, contractors/grantees, business owners, as well as the general public to explain, interpret, and enforce TB program policy and practices. He/she must influence others to meet program expectations/outcomes without authority for compliance and communicate and provide technical information in a professional manner that encourages on-going collaboration.

Physical Effort

The position requires extended periods of sitting and driving, visual acuity for driving and use of a computer, auditory acuity to successfully use the telephone, dexterity of hands for keyboarding, and the occasional lifting of up to 50 lbs. of training materials, equipment or supplies.

Working Conditions

Work environment requires incumbent to work from a home office, or hotel/motel office during outbreaks, expanded screenings and site visits. He/she must bring work laptop and cell phone to all worksites, including ISDH. May require travel during inclement weather and the need to flex work schedule, or work long hours in order to respond to a critical situation.

Please submit resume to:

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