



SABG Tuberculosis Services Treatment Procedure & Protocol CY2020



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Purpose

Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) funds are used for planning, implementing, and evaluating activities to prevent and treat substance use, including early intervention services for individuals who are at increased risk of contracting tuberculosis (TB) and other communicable diseases due to substance use. The purpose of tuberculosis testing services, in conjunction with other treatment services, is to reduce the adverse health effects of substance use, promote the health of the individual, and reduce the risk of transmission of communicable disease. Health Choice Arizona (HCA) requires all subcontractors who receive SABG funding to adhere to the below tuberculosis services procedure and protocol.

Procedure & Protocol – TB Services

HCA and its subcontractors provide a continuum of care that offers screening for tuberculosis and referrals to treatment for members in need. HCA requires that all members presenting with substance use are screened for tuberculosis prior to admission to a chemical dependency residential treatment facility (CDR) or inpatient facility. Tuberculosis screening is also required to be offered as a routine part of intake assessments, especially if the member has not been tested for communicable diseases recently. Testing occurs within the Health Homes where providers are equipped to complete this testing on site.

Members are identified as high-risk if they report intravenous drug use, report high-risk behaviors, or have any other accompanying medical conditions that might increase their risk of contracting tuberculosis. These members are educated about their increased risk due to these behaviors or conditions.

If a member tests positive for tuberculosis, HCA requires subcontractors to refer the member to an appropriate facility for additional testing, treatment, and monitoring. Care coordination between the tuberculosis treatment provider and the referring Health Home occurs to ensure that the member does not lose contact with the referring Health Home. When treatment services for tuberculosis are completed, the member can resume their admission process into a CDR or inpatient facility.

HCA monitors infection control practices through incident and accident reports, and provides technical assistance and/or performance improvement activities as needed and where indicated. In addition, HCA monitors the hospital accreditation of our Health Homes where applicable.

Interim Services

If Interim Services are needed due to SABG waitlist placement, HCA requires Health Homes to provide a "Referral Packet" at intake, and again during their annual assessment. The Referral Packet contains educational materials about communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, and highlights the risks of needle-sharing, the risk of disease transmission to sexual partners and infants, and steps that can be taken to ensure tuberculosis transmission does not occur. The packet also includes a referral for tuberculosis treatment services, if necessary. See [Chapter 18.5, p. 20](#), in HCA's Provider Manual for more information regarding interim services and requirements.

Care Management

If a member qualifies for a specialized care or disease management program, they will be referred to the appropriate program. The referral process is explained [Chapter 22.2](#) of HCA's Provider Manual.