

Appendix A

Tuberculosis Case Definition for Public Health Surveillance¹

Tuberculosis (Revised 9/96)

Clinical description

A chronic bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, characterized pathologically by the formation of granulomas. The most common site of infection is the lung, but other organs may be involved.

Clinical case definition

A case that meets all of the following criteria:

- A positive tuberculin skin test result
- Other signs and symptoms compatible with tuberculosis, such as an abnormal, unstable (i.e., worsening or improving) chest radiograph, or clinical evidence of current disease
- Treatment with two or more antituberculosis medications
- A completed diagnostic evaluation

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- Isolation of *M. tuberculosis* from a clinical specimen,* or
- Demonstration of *M. tuberculosis* from a clinical specimen by nucleic acid amplification test,[†] or
- Demonstration of acid-fast bacilli in a clinical specimen when a culture has not been or cannot be obtained

Case classification

Confirmed: a case that meets the clinical case definition or is laboratory confirmed

Comment

Only one case should be counted in a person within any consecutive 12-month period. However, a case in a patient who had previously had verified disease should be reported again if more than 12 months have elapsed since the patient was discharged from treatment. A case should also be reported again if the patient was lost to supervision for >12 months and disease can be verified again. Mycobacterial diseases other than those caused by *M. tuberculosis* complex should not be counted in tuberculosis morbidity statistics unless there is concurrent tuberculosis.

¹CDC. *Case definitions for infectious conditions under public health surveillance*. *MMWR* 1997;46(No. RR-10):40-41.

*Use of rapid identification techniques for *M. tuberculosis* (e.g., DNA probes and mycolic acid high-pressure liquid chromatography performed on a culture from a clinical specimen) are acceptable under this criterion.

[†]Nucleic acid amplification (NAA) tests must be accompanied by culture for mycobacteria species. However, for surveillance purposes, CDC will accept results obtained from NAA tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and used according to the approved product labeling on the package insert.