



Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
286 Water Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058
TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Isaac Benowitz, State Epidemiologist
Subject: Tuberculosis Reporting and Billing Updates
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Tuberculosis Reporting and Billing Updates

Tuberculosis (TB) Reporting

The Maine CDC is pleased to announce that we have added new functionalities to our Tuberculosis (TB) reporting system. Providers are instructed to submit TB referrals and physician orders only using the [online reporting form](#) and discontinue submitting information by phone, email or fax. Providers were [instructed](#) in January that the switch to the online reporting form would occur.

The reporting form can be accessed at <https://redcap.link/Maine-TB-report> and the link is available on the Maine CDC's TB website at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/tb>

Providers can use the TB reporting system to report suspected or confirmed active TB cases and enroll individuals in the TB billing assistance program.

New functionalities include:

- Enables physicians to place Public Health Nursing (PHN) orders directly in the system;
- Simplifies the referral process for enrolling inactive TB cases (formerly known as Latent Tuberculosis Infections or LTBI) in the billing assistance program;
- Improves insurance tracking for enrollment in Maine's Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) system;
- Improves workflow.

Tuberculosis (TB) Billing

With the [increase](#) in active and inactive TB cases, the Maine CDC reviewed its billing assistance program to ensure appropriate oversight of the funding so it can help as many individuals as possible. Therefore, the Maine CDC is issuing [standard billing guidelines](#). Providers should refer to the new guidance to ensure timely processing of approved expenses.

- The Maine CDC is unable to pay for any expenses until the individual is reported via the REDCap system as an active or inactive TB case, enrolled in the TB billing assistance program, and assigned a TB number.
 - It takes at least one business day from when an individual is enrolled in the billing assistance program before their pharmacy benefits become active. Please keep this in mind when issuing prescriptions.
 - Prescriptions picked up outside the pharmacy benefits program are not eligible for reimbursement.
 - Reported suspect cases are not eligible for billing assistance until they are either classified as active or inactive TB cases.
 - TB billing assistance terminates one year after enrollment. If a patient continues to need treatment after the termination date, they will need to be re-enrolled.
- If a patient has insurance, an explanation of benefits must be submitted with the bill for the Maine CDC to process the bill.
 - Insurance types include but are not limited to full coverage, emergency only, prescription only, spend down accounts, and unmet deductibles. These all require an explanation of benefits to be processed.

We appreciate your patience and support as we work to improve our systems to better support TB control in Maine. For questions related to TB illness, please email tb.dhhs@maine.gov. For questions on how to use the form, please email redcap.dhhs@maine.gov.