

SUBJECT: Evaluation of a Refugee or an Immigrant for Tuberculosis (TB)

POLICY STATEMENT: DHEC will evaluate a refugee or an immigrant referred by the United States, Department of State (DOS) for TB disease or infection.

LAWS/REGULATIONS:

[Immigration and Nationality Act \(INS\): ACT 412 – Authorization for Programs for Domestic Resettlement of and Assistance to Refugees.](#)

STANDARD:

1. The Tuberculosis Public Health Nurse (TB PHN) will assure that the refugee or immigrant referred by DOS receives an evaluation for tuberculosis (TB) disease.
2. The process of completing the evaluation of a refugee or an immigrant is collaborative, with responsibilities to be fulfilled by the TB Control Division and the county health department (CHD) TB staff.
3. See "[Citizenship and Immigration Services](#)" for definitions.

PROCEDURES:

TB Control Division will:

1. Review the medical and contact information contained within the DOS documents and determine the client's demographics and TB classification.
2. Complete the demographic information on the TB Control Refugee and Immigrant Data Collection Tool (DHEC 1442) and attach it to the DOS documents and submit to the designated TB PHN Case Manager.
3. Upon return of the DHEC 1442 and the TB Follow up worksheet, enter information into the TBEDN database and submit electronically to the TBEDN network.

TB PHN will:

1. Contact the refugee or immigrant within 3 days of receiving the DHEC 1442 with attached DOS documents.
2. Request that the individual immediately contact the county health department to schedule an appointment for evaluation. This can be accomplished by:
 - a. Telephone call
 - b. Mail the "[Please Call County Health Department](#)" letter in the refugee/immigrant's language
3. Conduct a field visit if no response within 7 working days.
4. Once located, initiate a diagnostic work-up:
 - a. Review DOS documents.
 - b. Assess for signs and symptoms of TB.
 - c. Perform TB Screening (TST or IGRA) as indicated
 - d. Obtain a chest x-ray (CXR) if previous CXR is > 3 months old or if unavailable.
 - e. Assure that the diagnostic work-up is reviewed by the TB Medical Clinician to determine if treatment for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) or TB disease is indicated.
5. Assure that the TB Medical Clinician completes TB Follow-Up Worksheet.

6. Return the completed TB Follow-Up Worksheet and the DHEC 1442 to the TB Control Division within 14 days for:
 - a. Treatment disposition
 - b. Refugee or Immigrant cannot be located

7. Return the completed 1442 to the TB Control Division within 14 days of completion of treatment.

REFERENCES:

[Citizenship and Immigration Services \(2013\) .](#)

DHEC Health Service Manual; [TB Section; Evaluation Policy.](#)

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Date of Revision: 12/15/2013

Summary of Changes: reformatted; removed rules due to duplication

Appendix A

Citizenship and Immigration Services (2013)

Definitions:

Asylee - An alien in the United States or at a port of entry who is found to be unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof must be based on the alien's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. For refugees or immigrants with no nationality, the country of nationality is considered to be the country in which the alien last habitually resided. Asylees are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the United States. These immigrants are limited to 10,000 adjustments per fiscal year.

Class B1 Status – Tuberculosis, clinically active, not infectious

Class B2 Status – Tuberculosis, not clinically active, not infectious

Immigrant - See Permanent Resident Alien. Immigration Act of 1990 - Public Law 101-649 (Act of November 29, 1990), which increased the limits on legal immigration to the United States, revised all grounds for exclusion and deportation, authorized temporary protected status to aliens of designated countries, revised and established new nonimmigrant admission categories, revised and extended the Visa Waiver Pilot Program, and revised naturalization authority and requirements.

Parolee - A parolee is an alien, appearing to be inadmissible to the inspecting officer, allowed into the United States for urgent humanitarian reasons or when that alien's entry is determined to be for significant public benefit. Parole does not constitute a formal admission to the United States and confers temporary status only, requiring parolees to leave when the conditions supporting their parole cease to exist.

Permanent Resident Alien - an alien admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident. Permanent residents are also commonly referred to as immigrants; however, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) broadly defines an immigrant as any alien in the United States, except one legally admitted under specific nonimmigrant categories (INA section 101(a) (15)). An illegal alien who entered the United States without inspection, for example, would be strictly defined as an immigrant under the INA but is not a permanent resident alien. Lawful permanent residents are legally accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States. They may be issued immigrant visas by the Department of State overseas or adjusted to permanent resident status by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the United States.

Refugee - Any refugee or immigrant who is outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof must be based on the alien's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. People with no nationality must generally be outside their country of last habitual residence to qualify as a refugee. Refugees are subject to ceilings by geographic area set annually by the President in consultation with Congress and are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the United States.