

Signs & Symptoms of TB Disease in adults are:

- Cough of 2 weeks or more
- Fever
- Fatigue or Tiredness
- Weight Loss
- Night Sweats
- Blood in Sputum (lung mucus)
- Chest pain

If you have any of these symptoms, you should ask your Doctor or Community Health Nurse about Tuberculosis.



Our Vision

Healthy, Self-Determining
and Vibrant BC First Nations
Children, Families and
Communities.



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

For further information about TB
please contact your
Community Health Centre:



First Nations Health Authority
Tuberculosis Services

Toll-Free: 1.844.364.2232

Fax: 604.689.3302

Email: fnhatb@fnha.ca

Website: www.fnha.ca/tuberculosis

The illustrations used in this FNHA Tuberculosis program information series were selected as part of a contest asking First Nations artists to visually show what Tuberculosis looked like or meant to them. We thank each artist for sharing their vision with the FNHA Health Protection team for use in these publications.



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Tuberculosis Medications



Medications for Tuberculosis (TB) Disease

This pamphlet describes the TB pills which you are taking. It is very important that you take all of your pills, even if you feel better. It can take 6 months or longer to kill all of the TB bacteria in your body.

Before starting your TB pills, tell the Nurse or Doctor:

- if you are allergic to any medications
- if you are taking any other medications

Some people are worried by the number of TB pills they may have to take, which may be up to 12 pills daily. This amount of medication is necessary for the treatment of TB disease.

Taking your TB pills:

- The pills should all be taken at the same time.
- You should take your TB pills on an empty stomach. This will improve the absorption of these pills.
- **Do not drink alcohol or take any products containing Tylenol (acetaminophen) while taking these TB medications.**



You will be asked to go for regular blood tests while you are taking these pills.

If you have any questions about your TB pills, please ask your Nurse or Doctor

Side Effects

Most people who take TB pills have no problems taking them. A few people may develop side effects which should be reported to the Nurse or Doctor immediately.

These include:

- nausea or vomiting
- abdominal pain
- yellow skin or eyes
- dark urine (looks like tea)
- numbness or tingling in your hands or feet
- rash or itching
- vision changes
- joint pain

You may be asked to have extra blood tests if you are having any of these side effects.



Common TB Drugs

Isoniazid



- Comes in a tablet or liquid form.
- One of the medications used in the treatment of TB disease.
- Also given to people who have TB infection to prevent them from developing TB disease.

Rifampin



- Is a red capsule.
- One of the medications used in the treatment of TB disease.
- May turn your urine, saliva, sweat and tears an orange-red colour. Contact lenses should not be worn because they may become stained.
- If you take birth control pills, rifampin makes these less effective. Discuss this with your Nurse or Doctor.

Pyrazinamide



- Is a white tablet.
- One of the medications used in the treatment of TB disease.
- Sometimes only given for the first 2 months of treatment.

Ethambutol



- Is either a white or blue tablet
- One of the medications used in the treatment of TB disease.
- While taking this medication, your vision should be checked once a month. You should notify your Nurse or Doctor if you have any vision changes.