



**National Tuberculosis  
Controllers Association**

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**NTCA Updates**  
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**Outline**

- TB drug supply, availability & affordability
- LTBI reporting & guidelines
- TB Survivor communications training
- Congressional meetings & briefings



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**TB DRUG SUPPLY, AVAILABILITY,  
AFFORDABILITY**



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### TB Drug Supply, Availability & Affordability

- High risk for shortage or price increase
  - Rifapentine (1); Rifabutin (3); Pyrazinamide (2)
  - Cycloserine (1; 2,248% price increase in 2015)
  - 7/17 WHO Essential Medicines at risk for price increase are for TB
- Supply affected by ingredients, manufacturing, and distribution
- Price affected by corporate policy, acquisition, and availability of generics

Alpern et al. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1601559




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### TB Drug Supply, Availability & Affordability

- Workgroup
  - CDC & ACET: policy, political support
  - PHAC: insights from Canada
  - TAG: policy & advocacy support
  - NASTAD: experience w/ AIDS Drug Assistance Program
  - USAID: interface w/ GDF
  - GDF: global supplier of quality drugs at negotiated price


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### TB Drug Supply, Availability & Affordability

- NTCA, TAG, Sanofi
  - Reduced price of rifapentine \$51/box to \$32/pack
  - Packaging customized for U.S. use and needs
  - Working to expand access to other Sanofi TB drugs (e.g. rifamate: rifampin/isoniazid combo)
- NTCA, CDC, HHS Supply Service Center
  - Emergency stockpile: rifampin; isoniazid; rifapentine; capreomycin; amikacin
  - Funded for 2017 & 2018; future ???
- NTCA, CDC, TAG, USAID
  - Harmonize with and procure (some) TB drugs through GDF
  - Would guarantee availability and price equal or lower than 340B
  - Test if this could work (isoniazid, rifampin, kanamycin, levofloxacin)




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## LTBI REPORTING & GUIDELINES



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## LTBI Reporting & Guidelines

- CDC estimates 13M people w/ LTBI, but no standard case definition or approach for surveillance
  - Need to quantify true burden of LTBI in U.S. to achieve TB Elimination
  - CDC already developing surveillance systems for LTBI; likely to deploy by/during 2020



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## LTBI Reporting & Guidelines

- NTCA LTBI workgroup: LTBI case classification
  - Suspect
    - positive TST or IGRA, AND
    - negative culture, if performed
  - Confirmed
    - positive TST or IGRA, AND
    - negative culture, AND
    - no clinical evidence compatible w/ TB disease, AND
    - normal chest x-ray or CT, OR
    - abnormal radiology consistent w/ TB disease with culture negative for MTB complex AND TB disease clinically ruled out
- Pending review by CSTE in June, 2017



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## LTBI Reporting & Guidelines

- CDC, ATS & IDSA began writing LTBI guidelines in 2011.
  - Process stalled (many reasons), and in 2015 CDC asked NTCA physicians to develop a companion statement to provide key points and interpretations
- Guidelines nearly complete, but ATS withdrew in December, 2016 and IDSA withdrew in February, 2017
  - CDC has asked NTCA physicians to lead completion of guidelines
  - CDC, NTCA and principal authors are discussing next steps
- Current plan is to publish a document within 6 months, if possible
  - Will publish companion statement as interim guidance if full version is not ready (most likely scenario)

\* A guideline, a guideline! My kingdom for a guideline!




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## TB AMBASSADORS AND COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING




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## THE MISSION...



To create a team of survivors who will serve as TB Ambassadors willing to raise awareness about Tuberculosis with three fundamental goals:

1. Provide an informative and supportive community for patients and survivors.
2. Share personal stories to drive change at a local, state and/or national level.
3. Provide the media a TB patient perspective to educate and reduce the stigma of TB.




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## 2016 TB Survivor Communications Training



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## 2016 World TB Day: Survivor Hill Day



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## 2017 TB Survivor Hill Day

- **Tomorrow, March 21, 2017**
- TB Survivors from:
  - KS, WI, NJ, NY, CO, WA, VA, NH, NC, FL, MA, MO
  - MDR-TB and Drug-sensitive TB
  - TB infection (a wife and a mother)
- Sponsored by TB organizations:
  - ATS, Aeras, RESULTS, NTCA, TB Alliance



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## 2017 TB Survivor Communications Training

- April 18 in Atlanta, GA (pre-conference meeting)
  - Opportunity to stay and attend some/all of the 2017 NTC, if interested
- Nominations being collected from US TB programs
  - Funds to support 10-12 survivors from across the US




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## NTCA GOES TO WASHINGTON!




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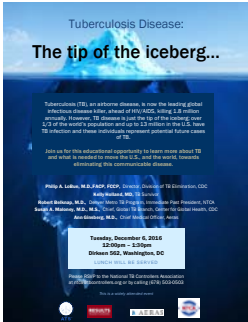
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## Congressional Briefing – 12/06/2016



- NTCA sponsorship
- Focus on domestic TB challenges
- Emphasis on prevention
- TB deaths identified as a failure of the US healthcare system



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### 2017 World TB Day Briefings

- **Two events planned** – both co-sponsored by NTCA
  - Senate – March 21
  - House – March 24
- Senate Briefing focuses on pediatric TB and will be moderated by Ken Castro (former director of CDC Division of TB Elimination)
- House Briefing moderated by Bob Belknap (NTCA immediate past president)
- Purpose of both – education about domestic and global TB challenges!



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### Action Alert!

- FY18 appropriations process
  - Let Washington know what is needed to eliminate TB in the US
    - Strong public health infrastructure
    - National prevention initiative
  - Focus on Anti-Microbial Resistance must include MDR and XDR-TB
    - Mono resistance increasingly a concern



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### Get involved!

**Become a member of NTCA**

ntca@tbcontrollers.org  
[www.tbcontrollers.org/membership](http://www.tbcontrollers.org/membership)  
678-503-0503



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