

Policy and Procedure for the Pediatric TB Patient

Karen Galanowsky, RN, BSN
New Jersey Department of Health &
Senior Services
TB Program

Policy

- To provide comprehensive pediatric medical evaluation, clinical care and treatment for all children 18 years of age or under with suspected or confirmed M.Tb disease, at any site, or latent TB infection
 - Includes children who are contacts to an infectious pulmonary TB case
 - Children who have a Class B1 or B2 immigration status

Regional Specialty Pediatric TB Clinics

- The Regional Specialty Pediatric Clinics are available for any child suspected or diagnosed with TB disease, identified as a contact to an infectious pulmonary TB case, or Class B1/B2
- The services provided may vary depending upon the particular situation of the child, source case, nurse case manager, resources available, county chest clinic physician, or private MD

Procedure

- The county nurse case manager shall inform the NJDHSS Nurse Consultant when any child 18 years of age or under is suspected or diagnosed of having TB disease
- Purpose - so that the nurse consultant can assist the county nurse case manager in determining the appropriate plan of action and/or problem solving follow-up care for this child

Procedure - 2

- Three Regional TB Specialty Clinics are available for the medical evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of pediatric patients
 - Lattimore Practice – Newark – weekly on Wednesday afternoons
 - Hudson County Chest Clinic – Jersey City – weekly on Thursdays
 - Southern NJ Regional Specialty Clinic – Bellmawr – appointments with ID pediatrician as needed. Arrangements for appointments should be made through the Camden Co. Nurse Case Manager

Services Available at the Pediatric Regional Specialty Clinics

- Quantiferon TB-Gold, physical examination, chest x-ray, blood work, nursing assessment, plan for treatment (ie DOT), and identification of barriers to ingesting the medications with suggestions from nurse practitioner, or nurse case manager, as to how to give the child the prescribed TB medications
- Pediatric radiologist is available to read films in consultation with pediatrician

Services Available - 2

- Visual acuity and Ishihara testing
- Referrals for additional medical problems
- Medical consultation for county chest clinic physicians and private MD's
- Nursing consultation for the county nurse case managers/supervisors regarding managing the child with TB

Services Available- 3

- The medical evaluation may be a one-time visit with a written plan of care implemented in the county where the patient resides
 - Communication between the regional chest clinics and private MD's/county chest clinics will be facilitated by the county nurse case manager with assistance of the NJDHSS nurse consultants
- The child may be followed from initiation to completion of treatment
 - The decision for continued care is based on the parent preference, county nurse case manager and/or chest clinic MD, pediatric pulmonologist or ID, nurse consultant, or circumstances of the case

Services Available - 4

- In some situations, a review of the chest x-ray by the pediatric pulmonologist, ID physician, or pediatric radiologist may be indicated prior to determining if the child should be seen at the regional chest clinic
 - NJDHSS nurse consultants will assist the county nurse case managers in making those decisions

Referral Process

- The New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services Referral to Regional Specialty Chest Clinic Policy and Procedure should be followed in referring a child for pediatric evaluation and care
- The Regional Specialty Clinic needs
 - A copy of the child's hospital/chest clinic medical record
 - All the chest x-rays or CT scan previously taken
 - PAF, TB 70, and TB 41
 - DOT records
 - Nursing notes

Referral Process - 2

- The parent or guardian must accompany the child to the regional specialty clinic at the first visit
- In the event the parent/guardian is not available after the first visit, he/she may give written consent for another adult to accompany the child
 - The parent/guardian must be available by telephone to talk to the pediatrician at the regional specialty during the child's visit

Referral Process - 3

- Transportation is available for any child and parent/guardian from the residence to the regional specialty clinic
- The New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services Transportation Services Policy should be followed
 - Remember that all requests for transportation need to be made at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled appointment

Successful Outcomes

- On-going communication between the county nurse case manager and the regional specialty clinic physician, nurse case manager, and/or nurse practitioner
- Transfer of medical records and all important information to the Regional Chest Clinic prior to the patient's arrival
 - The chest radiographs may be brought the day of the clinic visit
- MD orders and progress notes, nursing pre and post counseling notes, and blood work results must be faxed to the county nurse case manager following the visit
- County nurse case manager must be able to reach to pediatrician or pediatric nurse practitioner if need arises between visits