

Delegate Hand-out for Activity 5: Involuntary Isolation and Detention as Last-Resort Measures

Question

- Is involuntary detention of patients ever acceptable?
- If so, under what conditions would it be acceptable?

Instructions

- In the time allotted, do the following:
 - Read through the questions and information provided in the section below titled 'Setting the Scene'
 - Complete the Activity 5 Delegate Hand-out
- Hand in your completed hand-out to the facilitator
- Participate in the plenary discussion

Setting the Scene

TB control programmes operate within a complex legal framework that balances the civil rights of individuals with society's need for protection.

A dialogue between medical and legal professionals is necessary to ensure any legal steps taken to address patient non-adherence, strike the appropriate balance with modern constitutional guarantees of privacy, liberty, and non-discrimination. These issues are the same whether a patient has drug-susceptible or drug-resistant TB.

For those few patients who, for whatever reasons, continue to pose a risk to the public despite all efforts to address their barriers to initiating and adhering to treatment, ethical and legal options are needed to ensure that these patients do not continue to put others in the community at risk.

Questions and Responses

1. Is involuntary detention of patients ever acceptable?

2. If so, under what conditions would it be acceptable?
