

Active Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Checklist for Clinicians

Please remember, the elderly may not present with classic signs and symptoms of active TB Disease. In the elderly, consider tuberculosis in the differential diagnosis of failure to thrive and unexplained fatigue.

Symptom	Yes	No	Comments
Cough greater than 3 weeks			
Hemoptysis			
Fever			
Night Sweats			
Unintentional weight loss			
Anorexia			
Chest pain			
Dyspnea			

Chest x-ray findings	Yes	No	Comments
Cavities			
Infiltrates			
Nodules			
Pleural effusions			
Hilar or mediastinal lymphadenopathy			
Changes in apices of lungs			
Densities			
Volume loss			
Fibrosis			
Granulomas			

Reference: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Tuberculosis Protocol (Version 1.0). Diagnostics. P. 55; Public Health Agency of Canada & The Lung Association (2007). Canadian Tuberculosis Standards (6th Ed.). Chapter 4 – Diagnosis of Tuberculosis Infection and Disease. P. 73

If there are concerning findings, on either the review of symptoms, or the chest x-ray, three sputums for acid-fast bacilli (AFB) and culture should be ordered for collection at least 8 hours apart, to rule out active TB.

Health Services

7120 Hurontario St., PO Box 630 RPO Streetsville, Mississauga, ON L5M 2C1
Tel: 905-799-7700 peelregion.ca

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