

 <p>Standing Delegation Orders and Procedures for TB Prevention and Control</p>	Policy Number	5003
	Effective Date (<i>original issue</i>)	9-1-2013
	Revision Date (<i>most recent</i>)	
	Subject Matter Expert (<i>title</i>)	Infectious Disease Medical Officer
	Approval Authority (<i>title</i>)	Acting Manager, Tuberculosis Services Branch
	Signed by (<i>signature for hard copy; name for online</i>)	Sandra Morris, MPH

1.0 Purpose

Treatment for tuberculosis (TB) disease and latent TB infection (LTBI) is necessary for the control and prevention of this disease in Texas. The purpose of this policy is to develop and distribute standing delegation orders (SDO) and procedures for tuberculosis prevention and control to increase the consistency of quality care for patients receiving TB services at all local or regional health departments in Texas.

2.0 Policy

It is the policy of the Tuberculosis Services Branch to supply electronic SDOs and procedures for tuberculosis prevention and control.

- 2.1 The Tuberculosis Services Branch SDO is based on recommendations of the American Thoracic Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National TB Controllers Association and DSHS Texas TB expert panel.
- 2.2 The physician responsible for TB services performed will review the latest version of the SDO at least annually and sign where indicated.
- 2.3 The nurses and non-licensed workers who will carry out the medical orders contained in the SDO will read and sign at least annually that they understand the orders.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 Standing delegation orders - written instructions, orders, rules, regulations or procedures prepared by a physician and designed for a patient population with specific diseases, disorders, health problems or sets of symptoms. These instructions, orders, rules, regulations, or procedures are to provide authority for and a plan for use with patients presenting themselves prior to being examined or evaluated by a physician to ensure that such acts are carried out correctly and are distinct from specific orders written for a particular patient, and shall be limited in scope of authority delegated.

4.0 Persons Affected

Employees or contractors of DSHS and local health departments
 Local and regional health department managers
 Physicians, nurses and non-licensed healthcare workers involved in the delivery of TB services in local or regional health departments

5.0 Responsibilities

- 5.1 The Tuberculosis Services Branch is responsible for developing and updating SDOs that are consistent with national guidelines and recommendations from the TB expert panel.
- 5.2 Tuberculosis managers have a responsibility to assure that the standing delegation orders and procedures are reviewed and signed at least annually.

- 5.3 The physician responsible for TB care in their service area will review and provide services consistent with the SDO.
- 5.4 The nurses will carry out the standing delegation orders for routine TB services, but will seek the advice of the physician for situations or actions requiring medical judgment.
- 5.5 The non-licensed healthcare workers will carry out the standing delegation orders for DOT services, but will seek the advice of the supervisor for situations or actions that deviate from the SDOs.

6.0 Procedures

- 6.1 When substantive changes in national TB guidelines are published, the TB Services Branch will obtain recommendations from the Texas TB expert panel and incorporate these changes into the electronic standing delegation orders.
- 6.2 Drafts of the revised standing delegation orders will be submitted to stakeholders and TB expert physicians.
- 6.3 The revised draft will be sent to the manager of the Tuberculosis Services Branch for approval.
- 6.4 The approved standing delegation orders shall be placed on the website.

7.0 Revision History

Date	Action	Section
9-1-2013	New	