
TB/HIV/STD Integrated System (THISIS)

Training and Implementation Plan for Tuberculosis

Created November 16, 2020

Updated August 19, 2021

**Texas Department of State Health Services
Tuberculosis and Hansen's Disease Unit**



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

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Introduction of the Training and Implementation Plan for Tuberculosis Programs

Introduction

The TB, HIV, STD Integrated System (THISIS) is an electronic disease surveillance and case management system that allows public health staff to enter, manage, track and analyze data for disease exposure events, treatment and follow-up. THISIS allows for the immediate exchange of clinical, laboratory and surveillance information among local and regional health departments and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Tuberculosis (TB) and Hansen’s Disease Unit (TB Unit). It is the official reporting system for TB in Texas.

Purpose

The purpose of the THISIS Training and Implementation Plan (TIP) for TB programs is to outline the pathway to develop competency navigating THISIS and to incorporate its use by TB program staff as it is the statewide system for TB data management.

What is a successful THISIS Implementation Plan?

- *Staff complete all THISIS trainings.*
- *Staff are knowledgeable about each question package.*
- *Staff are competent in navigating THISIS.*
- *Staff enter information into THISIS according to the DACTS (Data Entry-Accurately, Completely, Timely, Securely) Principle.*

Intended Audience

The intended audience for the TIP is TB program managers and their designated staff. Program managers will identify staff in their areas to use the TIP to meet implementation dates.

Components of THISIS

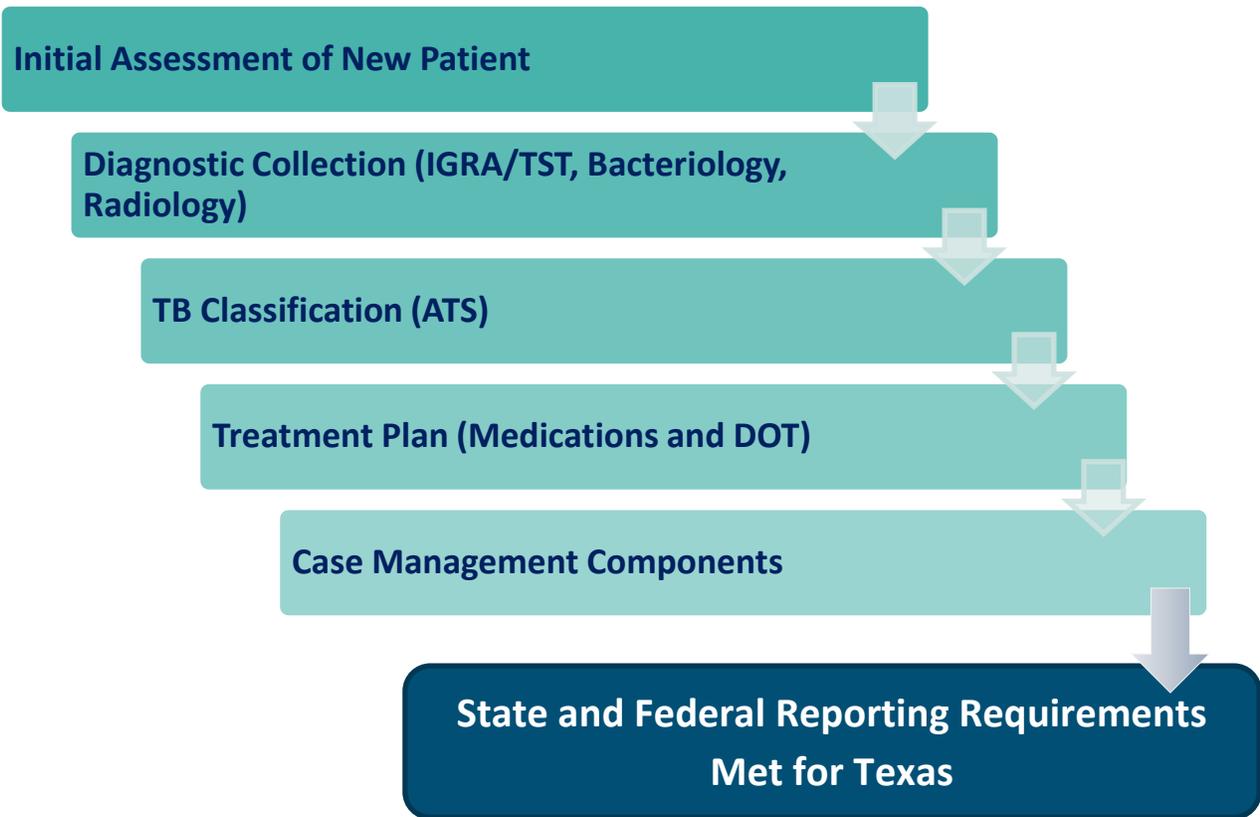
THISIS is designed to capture information on every patient in Texas who receives an American Thoracic Society (ATS) TB classification entered in THISIS as a TB “event”. It contains question packages (QPs) that when answered fully, contain a summary of care and data required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the TB

Unit, including the Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis (RVCT) for confirmed TB cases and reporting requirements for persons with latent TB infection.

THISIS allows TB Programs to:

- Enter patient information as soon as it is gathered;
- Report to the TB Unit as TB events occur which provides an accurate picture of the TB burden in Texas;
- Share event details with other team members, programs, and providers as needed for case management or transferring care; and
- Run data analysis reports for program evaluation to meet program goals.

THISIS QPs Collect Details of a TB Event



The Shift to THISIS: A New Landscape

Changing Structure

Reporting TB in Texas has followed a case registry structure. This traditional structure distributes state-designated registry sites among 29 reporting jurisdictions, including eight public health regions (PHRs), 16 local health departments (LHDs), and four binational TB programs and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

THISIS changes this structure. With THISIS, there is no need for a traditional system of case registry, as every funded TB program will enter into THISIS, TB case management details as they occur.



The Road Ahead: What does THISIS mean for TB Programs?

TB Programs that currently provide case registry services for LHDs will:

- Develop a timeline for transitioning data entry duties in collaboration with the LHDs. Training and implementation dates outlined in the TIP may guide this timeline.
- Redistribute roles currently performed by case registrars, as data entry needs will change.
- Incorporate THISIS into all TB staff job duties. This means training nurses, contact investigators, epidemiologists, support staff and others to enter event details as they occur.

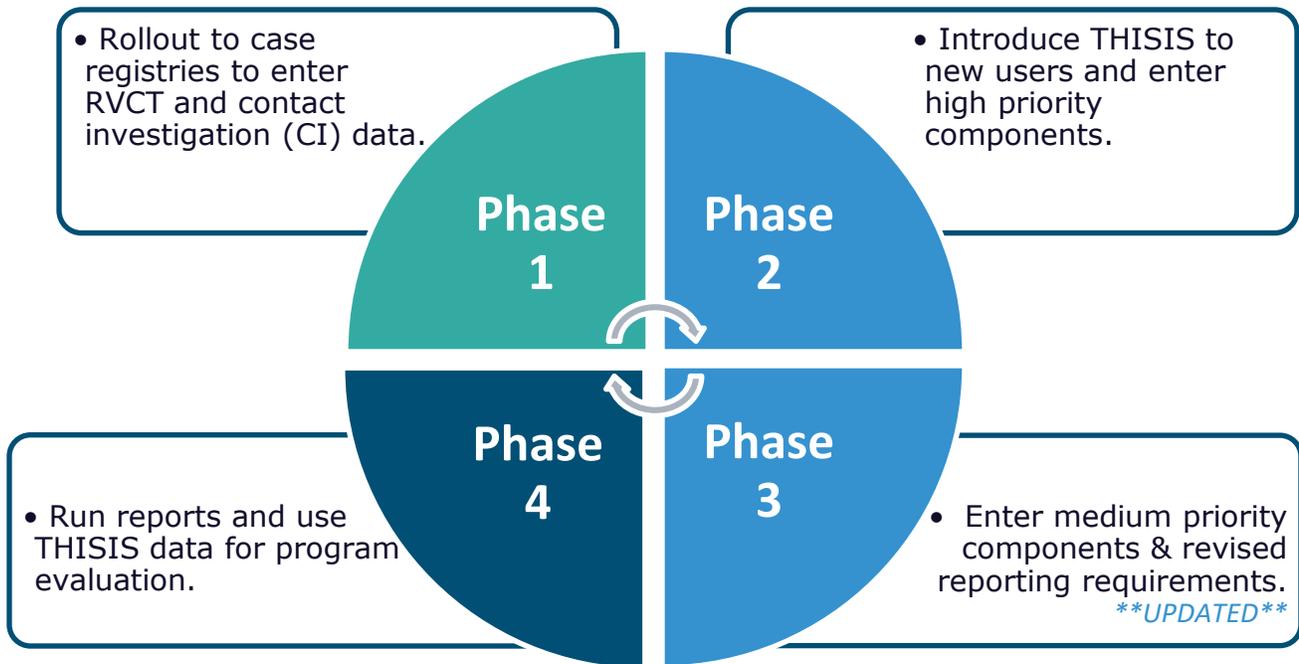
TB Programs that are not a case registry site will transition to THISIS. This may include:

- Revising staff duties. Program managers may consider adding a staff member to assist with THISIS data entry or incorporate THISIS job duties into current roles;
- Changing daily workflows, as entry may need to occur in one or more databases (i.e. THISIS, an Electronic Medical Record [EMR], Video-Enabled Directly Observed Therapy [VDOT] system); and
- Building a new relationship with the DSHS regional office as they will no longer serve as the registrar but may support LHD reporting requirements in other ways.

Phases of the TIP

The rollout of THISIS will occur in four phases. Each phase includes detailed information of training events and established time periods to develop competency navigating various areas in THISIS. Each phase is designed to meet required federal (CDC) and state (DSHS) reporting deadlines.

Overview of Phases



Phase 1: Rollout to Case Registries to Enter RVCT & CI Data, 2016

Training timeline (May 2018 – October 2019)

Phase 2: Introduce THISIS to New Users & Enter High Priority Components

Training available starting January 11, 2021

➤ **Implementation Goal – December 2021**

Phase 3: Enter Medium Priority Components & Revised Reporting Requirements **UPDATED******

Training available starting September 2021

➤ **Implementation Goal - March 2022**

Phase 4: Run Reports & Use THISIS Data for Program Evaluation

*Training will be available starting **March 2022 ****UPDATED*******

➤ **Implementation Goal - June 2022**

Phases 2, 3 and 4: A Closer Look

Training Audience

The THISIS training audience are all staff involved in TB activities including nurses, contact investigators, epidemiologists, outreach workers, case registry staff and other support staff. To ensure quality control and minimize errors, staff should enter data into a QP after demonstrating competency in the training material specific to that QP.

Phase 2: Introduce THISIS to New Users & Enter High Priority Components

Introduction to THISIS - Available January 11, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Navigate THISIS○ Conduct a Search and Create a New Event○ Review Information Tabs○ Navigate the Person Tab○ Assign and Update Tasks○ THISIS Helpdesk
Core Components for TB Prevention and Care, Parts I & II – Part I Available February 8, 2021; Part II Available March 8, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Enter TB Laboratory Values○ Initial Assessment QP○ TB Screening Test, X-rays, and Other Imaging QP○ Follow-Up Assessment QP○ TB Medical Consultation QP○ How to Add an Attachment○ TB Medications QP
TB Contact Investigation (CI), Parts I & II – Part I Available March 22, 2021; Part II Available April 12, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CI QP○ Named Contacts QP○ TB Exposure QP○ Create New Exposure Location○ Share and Un-Share an Event○ Mass Contact Roster Import
Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) - Available April 28, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ DOT Monitoring QP○ DOT Visits QP○ Adverse Reaction QP
TB Surveillance Activities - Available May 28, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Case Verification and Completion QP○ Reporting Information QP

➤ ***By December 31, 2021, programs should be competent in navigating Phase 2.***

Phase 3: Enter Medium Priority Components & Revised Reporting Requirements ***Updated***

<p>Case Management, Parts I & II –Available September 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TB Activity Assignment ○ Court-Ordered Management and Travel Restrictions ○ Hurricane and Natural Disaster Questionnaire ○ Hospitalization History ○ TB 400 Overview Print Template
<p>Epidemiology Activities - Available October 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Genotyping QP ○ False Positive Investigation QP ○ Cluster Investigation Function ○ TB GIMS Roster Import
<p>Revised Reporting Requirements, Parts I & II – Available starting November 2021 <i>**UPDATED**</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 2020 RVCT- Model changes to THISIS ○ Latent TB Infection Reporting – Model changes to THISIS ○ RVCT Print Templates ○ Report of LTBI Print Template ○ Legacy Information QP
<p>Congregate Settings - Available January 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Congregate Settings QP ○ Jail Roster Import ○ TB Screening Wizard
<p>Program Evaluation - Available February 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Case Review Activities QP

➤ ***By March 31, 2022, programs should be competent in navigating Phase 3.***

Phase 4: Run Reports and Use THISIS Data for Program Evaluation

Reports Available in THISIS – Available starting March 2022

TB Contact Investigation & Epidemiology Activities

- Report – Contact Evaluation and Disposition
- Report - Contact Line Listing
- Report – Genotype

TB Surveillance Activities

- Reports (5)- NTIP-related (reports focus on variables from the National TB Indicators Project [NTIP])
- Reports – Line Listing (Counted and Non-Counted Cases)
- Reports – Suspect Line Listing
- Reports – Suspect Report (Missing Date of CXR)

Program Evaluation

- Report- Performance Objectives
- Report- Program Evaluation
- Report- Cohort Review Summary

Congregate Settings

- Report – Correctional
- Report – TB Targeted Testing Aggregate Report

- ***By June 30, 2022, programs should be competent in navigating all components of THISIS.***

Training Details

DSHS will host THISIS trainings on Texas TRAIN, a web-based training platform. Attendees may take trainings as soon as they become available and will receive a certificate at the end of each completed session.



Steps to a Successful Training Experience

1

Request THISIS access.

- TB program managers should have program staff request THISIS access. Staff should complete this step at least four weeks before the first training. For requesting THISIS access, see Appendix 1.

2

Complete prerequisites.

- THISIS trainings are not designed to train staff on TB case management or surveillance activities. Staff must have a basic understanding of TB and reporting requirements prior to using THISIS, regardless of their role.

3

Prioritize trainings.

- Once training is available, managers should ensure staff have adequate time to complete the sessions.

4

Develop competency in training material before entering into THISIS.

- Staff should demonstrate understanding of each training before moving to the next topic and before entering into THISIS. Each training has a completion certificate that managers may choose to collect.

Prerequisites and Training Material

- A basic understanding of TB is required prior to using THISIS. Complete the CDC Self-Study Modules 1-5 prior to taking THISIS training:
[cdc.gov/tb/publications/slidesets/selfstudy/default.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/slidesets/selfstudy/default.htm)
- A basic understanding of surveillance requirements for TB, including RVCT training, is required prior to using THISIS.
 - Review the CDC Surveillance Data Training:
[cdc.gov/tb/programs/rvct/default.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/rvct/default.htm)
 - **NEW** 2020 RVCT Training and TB Infection Reporting:
dshs.texas.gov/disease/tb/surv.shtm
- DSHS THISIS Core Manual:
dshs.texas.gov/thsvh/thisis/manuals.shtm

How to Access Trainings on Texas TRAIN

DSHS Regional Staff

1. Visit Texas TRAIN at train.org/main/welcome.
2. Staff who have a username and password may log into their profile.
 - Staff without a Texas TRAIN account may log in with their work email. If the record cannot be found, send name, work email and employee ID number to txtrain@dshs.texas.gov. Include information about previous employment with a state agency, a different name used, a different email or anything else that may help locate the account. In most instances, the Texas TRAIN Administrator can create an account manually.
 - Staff without login credentials (username and/or password) should contact txtrain@dshs.texas.gov.
3. After login, use the Search feature to find the course needed by using the course ID number, which DSHS will provide when training is available.

Local Health Department Staff

1. Visit Texas TRAIN at train.org/main/welcome.
2. Select Create Account on the TRAIN login page. Please read the TRAIN policies carefully and if ready, select the checkbox to continue with registration.
3. Complete the learner account by filling out all necessary information. Required fields are indicated with an asterisk (*). **REMEMBER** to use your work email as your login name.
4. Select Texas as the state portal and "Texas User Group."
5. Finish the registration process.
6. After login, use the Search feature to find the course needed by using the course ID number, which DSHS will provide when training is available.

Appendix 1:

Frequently Asked Questions

What is THISIS?

TB, HIV, STD Integrated Information System (THISIS) is an electronic disease surveillance system that provides interactive, automated information gathering and decision support processes for the reporting and management of TB, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and reportable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

What is the purpose of entering TB information into THISIS?

The purpose of entering TB information into THISIS is to analyze, track, report and share real-time data among programs. THISIS contains case management components for TB programs to enter details of the management, follow-up and treatment of people with TB disease and infection, as well as contacts. Entering data into THISIS changes the DSHS TB reporting process from a paper-based reporting system to an electronic system.

What information should programs enter into THISIS?

Programs should enter information in all THISIS QPs and other areas that have been rolled out according to this TIP. This includes details on all patients who qualify for TB services: persons with known or suspected TB disease, all high-risk persons with TB infection reported to the health department including those reported from the Electronic Disease Notification (EDN) system, and contacts to cases including those on window prophylaxis.

What is the long-term goal for data entry into THISIS?

The long-term goal is for every funded TB program to enter case management details on every person evaluated for TB in Texas. Staff should complete and update every QP for each patient or "event" within established timelines set by the TB Unit.

Who should use THISIS starting in January 2021?

All PHRs and DSHS-contracted LHDs should begin training in THISIS starting in January 2021. THISIS will negate the need for case registry sites, as all programs will be able to enter real-time data. All program staff should become familiar with THISIS, even if not performing data entry, including nurses, epidemiologists, contact investigators and managers.

What should be entered in THISIS once fully implemented?

All QPs should contain data after THISIS is fully implemented for all persons reported to the local or regional TB program with an ATS classification. The TB Unit developed the TIP to prioritize data entry.

When can staff enter information into each QP?

Staff may enter information in a THISIS QP only after successfully completing THISIS training on that QP. While case registries have been trained on certain QPs in THISIS, training for other QPs will start after January 2021. Therefore, entering data should occur only after the QP training is available, and staff show competency in that QP. While staff may be excited to enter data, it must occur based on phases outlined in the TIP. This will ensure every program understands what and how to enter each QP accurately.

How will DSHS TB Unit prepare TB programs to enter required data?

The TB Unit will prepare programs to enter required information by providing training and webinars to support entry. The TB Unit will also host routine conference calls to clarify questions regarding trainings and data entry needs.

How do I access THISIS?

THISIS access is outlined in Instructions to Access Tuberculosis Program Databases at dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/tb/policies/TBDatabaseAccess.pdf.

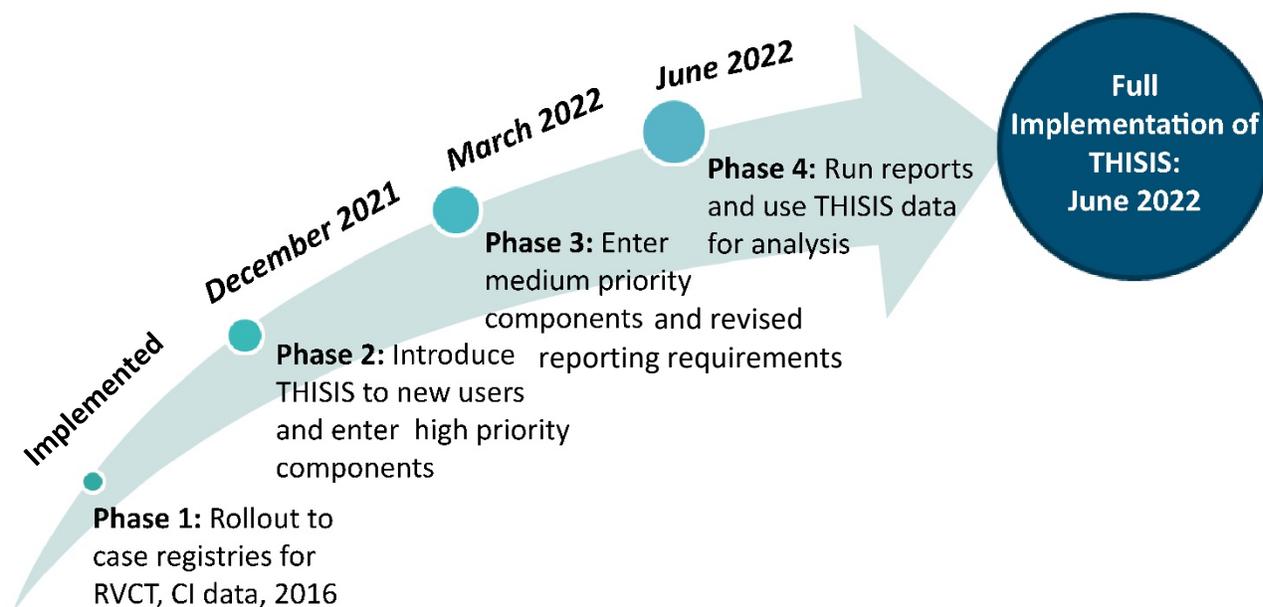
Is there a training environment to practice in THISIS? If so, how do I request access?

Yes. There is a specific URL (website) for the THISIS training environment that staff may use when conducting training or practicing data entry. Do not use protected health information (PHI) during training or practice. When creating events for practice, use fictitious or de-identified information. Email the THISIS Helpdesk at TBHIVSTD.THISISHelpdesk@dshs.texas.gov to request access to the Training environment. Program managers may include a list of all staff who need access in one request.

Appendix 2: Question Packages in THISIS by Priority

Phase 2 – High Priority, Implement by December 31, 2021	
Question Package Title	Training Start Dates
Initial Assessment	February 8, 2021
TB Screening Test, X-Rays & Other Imaging	February 8, 2021
Follow-Up Assessment	March 8, 2021
TB Medical Consultations	March 8, 2021
TB Medications	March 8, 2021
Contact Investigation	March 22, 2021
Named Contacts	April 12, 2021
TB Exposure	April 12, 2021
DOT Monitoring	April 28, 2021
DOT Visits	April 28, 2021
Adverse Reaction	April 28, 2021
Case Verification and Completion	May 28, 2021
Reporting Information	May 28, 2021
Phase 3 – Medium Priority, Implement by March 31, 2022	
Question Package Title	Training Start Dates
TB Activity Assignment	September TBD, 2021
Court-Ordered Management and Travel Restrictions	September TBD, 2021
Hurricane and Natural Disaster Questionnaire	September TBD, 2021
Hospitalization History	September TBD, 2021
Genotyping	October TBD, 2021
False Positive Investigation	October TBD, 2021
Legacy Information	December TBD, 2021
Congregate Settings	January TBD, 2022
Case Review Activities	February TBD, 2022

Appendix 3: Implementation Timeline



Phase 1: Rollout to Case Registries to Enter RVCT & CI Data, 2016

Training timeline (May 2018 – October 2019)

➤ **Implementation Complete**

Phase 2: Introduce THISIS to New Users & Enter High Priority Components

Training will be available starting January 11, 2021

➤ **Implementation Goal – December 2021**

Phase 3: Enter Medium Priority Components & Revised Reporting Requirements

Training will be available starting September 2021

➤ **Implementation Goal - March 2022**

Phase 4: Run Reports & Use THISIS Data for Program Evaluation

Training will be available starting March 2022

➤ **Implementation Goal - June 2022**

Appendix 4:

THISIS Glossary

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DSHS – Texas Department of State Health Services

Event – The occurrence of a disease and a person. A person can be associated with more than one event if they have multiple diseases. For example, if a person has TB, HIV and syphilis, they have three events. If the same person got syphilis two years later, they would have four events.

Event ID – Unique event number automatically assigned to each event by THISIS

PHR – Public Health Region

Question Packages (QPs) – A group of questions sharing a common theme. The QP is related to various areas of interest for a given disease. All diseases will have a demographic QP. Diseases have QPs specific to the disease. For example, TB has a QP about adverse reactions but does not have a QP for risk behaviors.

Role – Roles define user permissions, which are the ability to use specific functions and features in THISIS. For example, a user with the STD First Line Supervisor role has permission to approve field record dispositions. A TB nurse has permission to enter and change data.

RVCT – Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis – the national TB surveillance data reporting form

STD – Sexually Transmitted Disease

TB – Tuberculosis

Tabs – Tabs occupy the bottom half of the event dashboard page and display more detailed information about the event. The user can change the information presented by selecting each different tab. The section below the tab bar displays additional details about each tab.

Task – Tasks are a technique for users to delegate assignments or work to others. They are a type of workflow manually assigned by THISIS users and can have a due date. See Chapter 5.2 in the core manual for more information.

THISIS – TB, HIV, STD Integrated Information System

Toolbar – The toolbar is located at the top of the THISIS screen and contains icons (buttons) that perform most of the functions in the system. The buttons displayed on the toolbar vary depending on a user's role.

User – Any person using the THISIS.

User Permissions – Ability to use specific functions and features in THISIS

Workflow – THISIS workflows help users manage work by identifying events and tasks that need attention. THISIS monitors new and updated events and tasks to determine what actions are required, which then appear as a workflow in a user's account.

Appendix 5: **THISIS Resources**

THISIS Website

dshs.texas.gov/thsvh/thisis/

THISIS Helpdesk

dshs.texas.gov/thsvh/thisis/helpdesk.shtm

TB and Hansen's Disease Unit Support

TB.feedback@dshs.texas.gov

THISIS Training Environment

registry-test.dshs.texas.gov/thisis-test-training/login.do