

# Tuberculosis (TB) Screening in Long-term Care and Retirement Homes

## Active TB screening checklist for clinicians

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

Symptom	Yes	No	Comments
Fever	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hemoptysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cough lasting more than 3 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dyspnea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Chest pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anorexia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unintentional weight loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Night sweats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Chest x-ray findings	Yes	No	Comments
Pleural effusions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cavities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Changes in apices of lungs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Densities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fibrosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Granulomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Infiltrates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nodules	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Volume loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hilar or mediastinal lymphadenopathy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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 (7th Ed.), Chapter 3 – Diagnosis of Active Tuberculosis and Drug Resistance. P. 45

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, each at least 8 hours apart, to rule out active TB.