TEXAS BINATIONAL TB PROJECTS

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Continuity of Care Among Foreign Transfers

Challenges:
- Detainees deported without referrals
- Treatment interruptions resulting in TB complications
- Family members exposed

What are the solutions?
Continuity of Care Among Foreign Transfers

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Binational TB Case Definition

- The client lives in Mexico but has relatives in the US
- The client has dual residency in the US and Mexico
- The client has contacts on both sides of the border.
- The client starts treatment in the U.S. but returns to live in Mexico
- TB clients referred from the U.S for treatment or follow-up
The first Binational TB Project “JUNTOS” was formally established in 1991.

Public Health Advisor assigned May 2015 to Region 11 Harlingen, Texas.

PHA conducted on-site reviews of each project.

Patients with a binational link are seen for directly observed therapy, labs, clinical care and education.

Heartland National TB center provides expert consultation for complicated cases and provides TB intense training for binational nurses.

Criminal activities are a huge challenge for binational staff and patients as is incarceration and gang affiliations.
Texas Binational TB Projects
Contact Details for Referrals

- **Los Dos Laredos - Nuevo Laredo**
  956-795-4911 City of Laredo Health Department

- **Grupo Sin Fronteras – Harlingen**
  956-423-0130 Health Service Region 11

- **Projecto JUNTOS – El Paso**
  915-834-7792 Health Service Region 9/10

- **Projecto Esperanza y Amistad - Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras**
  830-513-8070 Health Service Region 8
Area of Responsibility

When do you refer to the Binational Projects?

- Subject has a confirmed address within the Projects’ designated cities
- Subject has contacts within the binational projects’ areas
What do you need to send?

- Complete patient record including current labs, culture results, radiology reports, delivery of medication records
- Prefer a patient interview over the phone but not required.
- Patient confidentiality if not already acquired
- Medication for travel days with instructions
What do they do?

- Patient Care/Case Management
- DOT (Directly Observed Therapy)
- Home Visits
- Contact Investigation
- Communication
- Education
- Psychological and emotional support
- Collect specimens (blood, sputum, QFT’S)
Challenges

- Treatment interruptions due to mobility
- Violence
- Travel restrictions
- Criminal activities of patient
  - Incarceration
  - Gang affiliation
- Lack of uniformity between the TB control programs
Thank you

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