



Public Health Division
Communicable Disease

TB HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PROCEDURE



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Santa Cruz County

We recognize that the California Health and Safety Code, section 121361, mandates that patients with suspected or confirmed tuberculosis (TB) may not be discharged or transferred without prior local health department approval. To streamline the discharge process, we created two options based on the degree of the physician's suspicion for active TB disease:

1. High risk TB suspects, or confirmed cases. Fax the **High Risk Tuberculosis Discharge Authorization Request** form prior to the anticipated discharge date.
2. Low risk TB suspects (as determined by an infectious disease physician). Fax the **Low Risk Tuberculosis Discharge Notification** form once patient is off airborne isolation and a formal infectious disease consultation has been completed. **No authorization for discharge is required as long as the following four conditions are met and documented on the form:**

- Resident of Santa Cruz County; not homeless
- Immunocompetent adult
- Released from airborne isolation
- Completed infectious disease (ID) consultation indicating that patient is a low risk suspect for active TB disease

➤ **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DISCHARGING FACILITY**

If the patient was reported to the Santa Cruz County Communicable Disease Unit (CDU) as a suspect for, or a confirmed case of active TB disease, the facility must submit either a High Risk Tuberculosis Discharge Authorization Request, or Low Risk Tuberculosis Discharge Notification form as described above.

Send the request / notification via fax to the Santa Cruz County CDU at (831) 454-5049.

- **High Risk Tuberculosis Discharge Authorization Request**
 - Must be faxed prior to the anticipated discharge date, Monday through Friday. County offices are closed weekends and holidays.
 - If request must be made on a weekend or holiday, call Netcom at (831) 471-1170 and ask for the Health Officer.
- **Low Risk Tuberculosis Discharge Notification**
 - There is no need to wait for a response if you faxed a fully completed Discharge Notification form and a formal Infectious Disease Consultation for your patient.

➤ **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UNIT (CDU)**

CDU staff will review the Tuberculosis Discharge Authorization Request and respond to the submitter **within 24 hours**, or the next business day. If CDU staff need to do a site visit of the discharge location, it will be done within 1 business day from receiving the authorization request. After the site visit, CDU staff will respond as soon as possible to the submitting facility.