



International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
Health solutions for the poor



International Council of Nurses  
The global voice of nursing

## **Guide to delivering high quality care for TB patients launched**

### ***On Universal Health Coverage Day updated guide supports front line staff to offer quality health care to every TB patient around the world***

**12 December 2017** - Today on Universal Health Coverage Day, The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) and the International Council of Nurses (ICN) have launched updated guidance for health care workers who are involved in detecting and caring for patients with tuberculosis (TB).

Universal Health Coverage Day commemorates the anniversary of the first unanimous United Nations resolution calling for countries to provide affordable, quality health care to every person, everywhere.

Supporting health care workers to be empowered and equipped to deliver high quality care for TB patients is one vital step towards universal health coverage.

*Best Practice for The Care of Patients with Tuberculosis: A guide for low-income countries* provides detailed guidance for the care and support of people in health care settings who present with symptoms suggestive of TB, and their subsequent care and support if found to be required.

The guide has been developed by The Union's member network of Nurses and Allied Professionals (NAPS) with ICN.

Dr Carrie Tudor, immediate past NAPS Sub-Section Chair and TB Project Director for ICN, says, "TB treatment is not generally part of nurse training, yet in low-resource settings there are fewer doctors, meaning that TB care is often carried out by nurses. This means high quality nursing care is vital to the successful treatment of TB and training with resources such as this guide is central to that."

Mr Jojo Moyo, a nurse from Zambia said: "One of the tools that has taught me to think out of the box is the Best Practice Guide, in that I learned to identify gaps in standards and so now I am constantly able to identify ways in which to improve patients' TB care and improve infection control practices."

ICN has used the original version of the guide in all TB training for nearly 10 years. This second edition has been developed in line with the End TB Strategy and takes a broader view than the

earlier edition regarding what is required to achieve lasting control of TB. There is more information in this second edition about drug-resistant TB (DR-TB).

Dr Paula I Fujiwara, Scientific Director of The Union, said: “Everybody should receive the care they need, when they need it and at a good quality standard - yet far too often the place of your birth determines if you can access good healthcare or not. This has to change at all levels. The Guide is a crucial tool that is strengthening healthcare systems right at their heart. It is led by the patient’s needs and is being used to empower the staff who work with TB patients every single day.”

The guide can be downloaded [now](#)

### **About the International Council of Nurses (ICN) i**

ICN s a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

For information on ICN, contact Lindsey Williamson at: [media@icn.ch](mailto:media@icn.ch)

Tel: +41 22 908 0100; Fax: +41 22 908 0101

[www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch)

[@ICNurses](#)

### **About The Union**

The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) is a global scientific organisation with the mission to improve health among people living in poverty. We do that by conducting scientific research, working with governments and other agencies to translate research into better health for people around the world, and delivering projects directly in the field. The Union is made up of a membership body of people around the world who help to advance our mission, and a scientific institute that implements public health projects within countries. For close to 100 years, we have been leaders in the fight against some of the world’s biggest killers, including tuberculosis, lung diseases and tobacco use.

For information, contact Helen Platt, [hplatt@theunion.org](mailto:hplatt@theunion.org)

Tel : +44 7889332476

[Theunion.org](http://Theunion.org)

[@TheUnion\\_TBLH](#)