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**CRITERIA FOR DISCHARGE OF SMEAR POSITIVE (+) PATIENTS  
TO HIGH RISK SETTINGS\***

Patients known or suspected to have TB in an infectious stage should not be placed in or returned to high risk settings (e.g., long-term care facilities; hospice).

Patients with previously positive sputum smears must meet all the following criteria:

1. Have three (3) consecutive negative AFB sputum smear results from sputum collected on different days; AND
2. Have completed at least two (2) weeks of multi-drug anti-tuberculosis therapy that is consistent with CDC/ATS Treatment Guidelines; AND
3. Exhibit clinical improvement (e.g., reduction in fever and cough); AND
4. Have continued close medical supervision, including directly observed therapy (DOT), if needed; AND
5. Continues multi-drug therapy, even if another pulmonary process is diagnosed, pending negative culture results from at least three (3) sputum specimens.

**CRITERIA FOR DISCHARGE OF SMEAR NEGATIVE (-) PATIENTS  
TO HIGH RISK SETTING\***

Patients with only negative sputum smears must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Have three (3) consecutive negative AFB sputum smear results from sputum collected on different days; AND
2. Have completed a minimum of four (4) to seven (7) days (depending on circumstances) of multi-drug anti-tuberculosis therapy that is consistent with CDC/ATS Treatment Guidelines; AND
3. Have continued close medical supervision, including directly observed therapy (DOT), if needed; AND
4. Continues multi-drug therapy, even if another pulmonary process is diagnosed, pending negative culture results from at least three (3) sputum specimens.

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

For patients being placed in settings where there is an increased risk of transmission, more stringent criteria, including longer treatment prior to transfer, may be required in certain special circumstances (e.g., prisons).

\* THIS INFORMATION IS TAKEN FROM THE "DISCHARGE PROCEDURE CARDS"