

Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) Screening



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

NHS
England

The National Latent TB Infection (LTBI) testing and treatment programme

Since 2015 NHS England has funded a LTBI testing and treatment programme and funding has been secured until 2024/25. It is 1 of 10 key activities in the NHS England/PHE Collaborative TB Strategy for England

- England has one of the highest rates of TB in western Europe. TB rates and numbers fell between 2011 and 2019 but have started to rise again.

TB is a disease of inequality in 2019:

- 74% of TB notifications were born outside of the UK.
- London reported 35.2% of TB notifications.
- TB rates were 5x higher in the most deprived areas.
- 13% of people notified with TB have a social risk factor.

What is latent TB Infection?

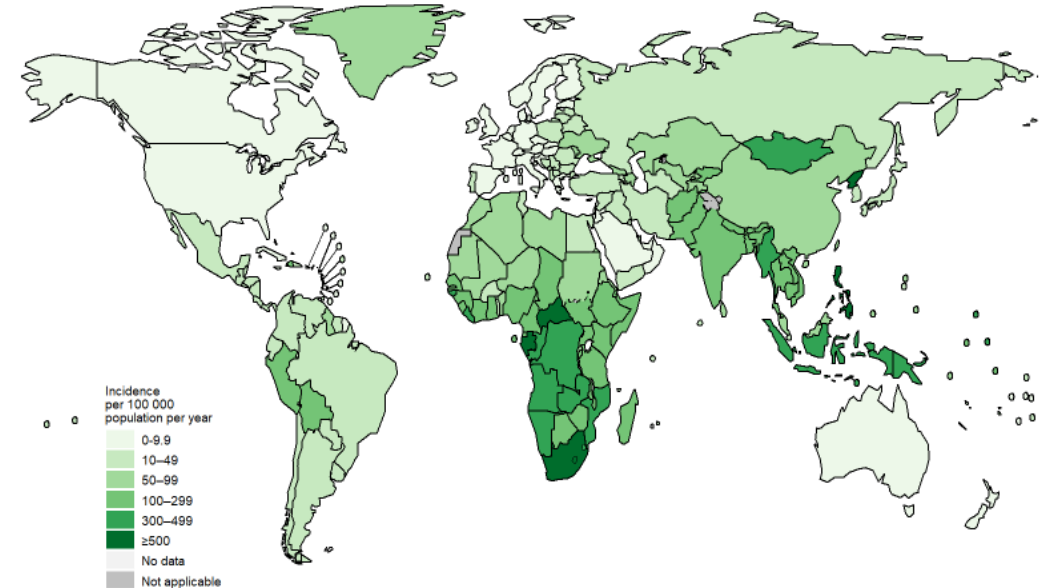
- TB is an airborne lung disease caused by the germ *M. tuberculosis*. It is a serious disease that is curable through treatment but can be fatal if not treated.
- People can be infected with *M. tuberculosis*, but not develop TB disease (ie it is dormant). They are not infectious and cannot spread TB infection to others. This is latent TB (LTBI).
- For most people LTBI will not cause TB and is inactive for a lifetime but for people with weak immune systems the bacteria becomes active and they develop TB disease – usually within the first 2 years of infection.
- Treating people with antibiotics prevents the disease becoming active.
- 5 to 10% of LTBI becomes active TB disease and so it is important to treat people with LTBI.
- 17% of all LTBI tests were positive for LTBI

Countries with high TB incidence rates

Countries of high TB prevalence

Country	Country	Country
Afghanistan	Ghana	Niger
Angola	Greenland	Nigeria
Bangladesh	Guinea	Pakistan
Benin	Guinea-Bissau	Papua New Guinea
Bhutan	Haiti	Philippines
Botswana	India	Republic of Moldova
Burkina Faso	Indonesia	Rwanda
Burundi	Kenya	Sao Tome and Principe
Cote d'ivoire	Kiribati	Senegal
Cabo Verde	Laos PDR	Seychelles
Cambodia	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Lesotho	Somalia
Central African Republic	Madagascar	South Africa
Chad	Malawi	South Sudan
Comoros	Mali	Swaziland
Congo	Marshall Islands	Thailand
DRP Korea	Mauritania	Timor-Leste
DR Congo	Mauritius	Togo
Djibouti	Micronesia	Tuvalu
Equatorial Guinea	Mongolia	Uganda
Eritrea	Mozambique	Tanzania
Ethiopia	Myanmar	Zambia
Gabon	Namibia	Zimbabwe
Gambia	Nepal	

Estimated TB incidence rates, 2021



The proportion of people with a new episode of TB (either new or relapse cases) who were coinfectd with HIV was also highest in countries in the WHO African Region, exceeding 50% in parts of southern Africa

List of Countries can be found on the World Health Organisation (WHO) website - [Global Tuberculosis Report 2022 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

Latent TB Infection (LTBI) Testing - Criteria

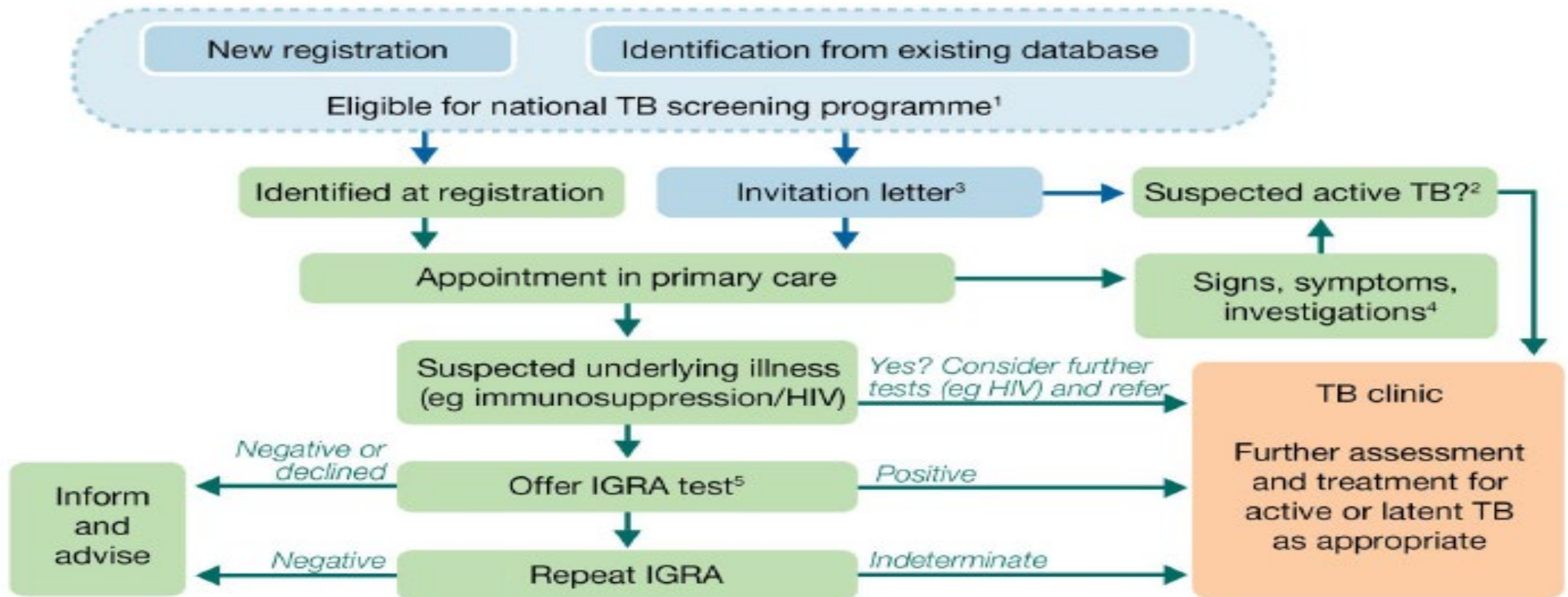
- Born or arrived from a high TB incidence country (see slide 3) where they stayed for more than 6 months
- Patients aged between 16-35
- Entered the UK within the last 5 years
- No previous history of TB or LTBI
- Not previously screened for LTBI
- Registered with a GP practice in the last 5 years

Note:- patients should still be referred for testing even if they have had;

- BCG - the vaccination is not 100% effective so they could still have latent TB.
- Chest X-ray – (usually part of the visa application process) an x-ray only detects **active** TB so they could still have latent TB.
- *+ If a patient knows they have been in the presence of someone with TB then they should also be offered testing as a duty of care*
- *+ If a patient comes back with a positive result to Latent TB infection, where the family/people they are living with have followed the same path into the country they should also be registered and offered screening.*

Latent TB Infection (LTBI) Testing - Pathway

National Screening Pathway



Case finding and data recording

Identification at Registration –

- checking the form for country of residence
- Talking to the patient about previous country of residence
- Explaining about TB
- Inviting for testing

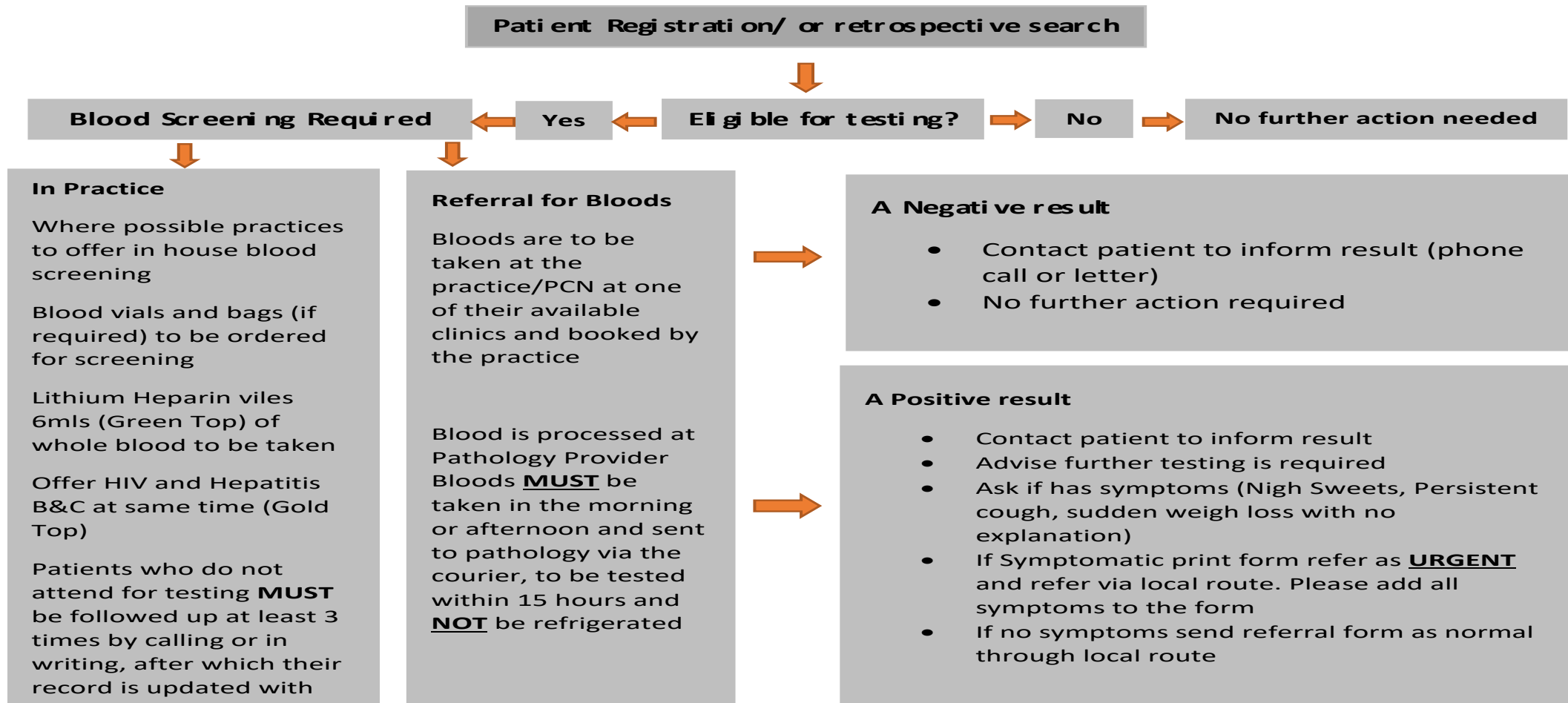
Identification Retrospectively –

- searches for people who may have been missed at registration
- Flag 4 data – how this works
- Inviting for testing
- Explaining about TB

Administration and data recording

- Sending reminders x 2
- The NWL template and screenshots
- Importance of coding for recording
 - invitations
 - decliners
 - reminders
 - Phlebotomy appointments
 - IGRA test results
- Consumables for blood samples (bottles and colour tops)
- Instructions for sample collections (bag, 16 hour limit etc)
- Contacting patients with negative test results

Crib Sheet



Questions ?