



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

May 10, 2022

TO: Local Health Department TB Staff
FROM: Jason Stout, MD, MHS, TB Controller/Medical Director
RE: Tuberculosis medication shortages

The North Carolina Tuberculosis Control Program is continuing to monitor ongoing shortages of rifampin and rifapentine. Rifampin, in particular, has been in short supply, and much of the supply that has been made available over the past several months is unfortunately past its expiration date. In light of these ongoing shortages, the NC Tuberculosis Control Program is recommending prioritizing the use of rifampin as follows:

- 1) The top priority is ensuring treatment of current cases.
- 2) Second priority is treatment of individuals who test positive for latent tuberculosis after recent close contacts to infectious cases. If a facility has an adequate supply of rifapentine, the 12-week, once-weekly isoniazid/rifapentine regimen is preferred for recent close contacts who test positive for latent tuberculosis.
- 3) Patients with latent tuberculosis for whom treatment is recommended should be preferentially treated with isoniazid monotherapy, if at all possible. If isoniazid is contraindicated or the patient prefers a short-course option AND there is no emergent need for latent tuberculosis treatment (such as imminent use of a biologic agent), initiation of latent tuberculosis treatment may be deferred until adequate drug supply is available.

We will continue to update our partners as new information on this shortage becomes available. Please contact the NC Tuberculosis Control Program with any questions or concerns.

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