



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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To: Local Health Department TB Programs
From: Jason Stout, MD, MHS, TB Controller/Medical Director
Re: TB Medication shortages

The North Carolina Tuberculosis Control Program has been made aware of shortages of three of the four first-line medications used to treat tuberculosis: isoniazid, rifampin, and ethambutol. Rifapentine is also in short supply. As these are crucial medications used both to treat active tuberculosis and latent tuberculosis infection, the NC TB Control Program is strongly recommending prioritizing the use of tuberculosis medications as follows:

- 1) The top priority is ensuring ongoing treatment of current cases
- 2) Second priority is treatment of recent close contacts to infectious cases who test positive for latent tuberculosis
- 3) Patients who are not cases or recent close contacts should not be initiated on latent tuberculosis treatment, pending further notice
- 4) Patients who are currently taking latent tuberculosis medications may be continued on those medications only if sufficient supply of medications is on hand to treat the current cases and recent close contacts

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.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH; EPI/CD/TB CONTROL

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