

Time	Date	Center

Keep all your appointments and call the center with any problems.



New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
 Bureau of Tuberculosis Control
 Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Treatment for Active TB Disease: What you need to know

My doctor
My nurse
Date my treatment started

Chest Center Address & Telephone	
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What is TB?

TB (tuberculosis) is a disease that can seriously damage your lungs and other organs. However, TB is both preventable and curable. TB germs are spread through the air. When TB germs are causing harm to your body and your body cannot protect you, you are said to have **active TB disease**. People with active TB disease feel very sick and can spread TB germs to others.

Is active TB curable?

Yes, there are medicines that can help your body fight TB germs. When someone has active TB disease, they are usually given as many as four or five different medicines because active TB germs can be very hard to kill. The most common medicines given to treat active TB disease are: isoniazid (INH), rifampin, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol.

rev 3/05

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Outside Card

What should I know about these medicines?

- Enroll in Directly Observed Therapy (DOT), a free program where you work with a personal health care worker to make sure you get better.
- You must take ALL of your medicines as prescribed. If you do not take your TB medicines every day, you can get sick again. The TB germs could even become resistant to the medicines, and therefore harder to kill.
- Avoid taking Tylenol®, and do NOT drink alcohol while taking these medicines.
- Let your doctor and nurse know of any other medicines (including herbal medicines) or vitamins you are taking. Other medicines may affect the way your TB medicines work.

What about side effects with these medicines?

A few people may have some of the side effects listed below. (You may be on TB medicines not listed on this card.)

Isoniazid (INH, Laniazid, Niazid, Nydrazid)

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Dark urine
- Skin rash
- Loss of appetite
- Numbness of feet or hands
- Yellowing of skin and eyes

Rifampin (Rifadin)

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Easy bruising
- Flu-like symptoms
- Loss of appetite
- Skin rash

*Rifampin may cause your body fluids (including urine, sweat, and/or tears) to turn orange or red, and may permanently stain soft contact lenses. This is not harmful to you.

Pyrazinamide

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Dark urine
- Loss of appetite
- Yellowing of skin and eyes
- Joint aches
- Skin rash

Ethambutol (Myambutol)

- Blurry vision
- Changed color vision

Stop taking your TB medicines if you have any of these side effects, and tell your doctor, nurse or public health advisor (PHA) immediately. For more information, call 311 or visit our website: nyc.gov/health

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Inside Card