# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** **October 31, 2019**

**TO:** **Physicians**

**FROM:** **Sandon S. Speedling, MHS, CPM**
**Administrator/Health Officer**

**SUBJECT:** **PROCEDURE FOR TUBERCULOSIS (TB) PATIENT REFERRAL**

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All patients suspected of having pulmonary TB should be admitted to the hospital for an inpatient work-up, but if a physician feels admission is not warranted, then the Bay County Health Department (BCHD) will evaluate the patient for TB as an outpatient.

In the past, these patients have been sent to the BCHD as walk-ins, which unnecessarily exposed other patients and staff to potentially contagious TB. In order to eliminate this exposure, r/o TB patients should no longer be referred as walk-ins to the BCHD. These patients should be sent home on at-home isolation and a referral (enclosed) faxed (850-747-5475) to the BCHD in addition to a courtesy call to our Epidemiology Department at (850) 872-4720. Upon receiving the referral our TB staff will contact the patient to conduct a home visit for evaluation. The referral form documenting the outcome of our evaluation will be mailed back to the referring office. The referral form is available from our website at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chd/Bay/Docments/TB_Referral.pdf. To ensure you are using the latest version of the form, please print a new form from the internet for each referral.

Patients that are sent to the Bay County Health Department (BCHD) for a routine evaluation and treatment of LTBI not associated with contact to an active case of TB will be charged on a fee-for-service basis. Patients that are evaluated for exposure to TB as a result of being a contact to a known case will NOT be charged for TB services.

The Bay County Health Department does not process outpatient AFB cultures (sputum or urine) unless approved by the EPI supervisor. The cultures should be taken to one of the local laboratories for processing.

If you have questions or concerns about this change in policy, please call the Epidemiology section at 872-4720 and follow the prompts.

SSS/ceb