

# Tuberculosis (TB) Screening in Long Term Care and Retirement Homes

## Active TB Screening Checklist for Clinicians

Please remember, the elderly may not present with classic signs and symptoms of active TB Disease. In the elderly, consider tuberculosis in the differential diagnosis of failure to thrive and unexplained fatigue.

Symptom	Yes	No	Comments
New or worsening cough $\geq 3$ weeks			
Hemoptysis			
Fever			
Night Sweats			
Unintentional weight loss			
Anorexia			
Chest pain			
Dyspnea			

Chest x-ray findings	Yes	No	Comments
Cavities			
Infiltrates			
Nodules			
Pleural effusions			
Hilar or mediastinal lymphadenopathy			
Changes in apices of lungs			
Densities			
Volume loss			
Fibrosis			
Granulomas			

Reference: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Tuberculosis Protocol (Version 1.0). Diagnostics. 2006, p. 55  
 Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Public Health Agency of Canada & the Canadian Lung Association, 2014, p.46

**If there are concerning findings on either the review of symptoms or the chest x-ray, three sputums for acid-fast bacilli (AFB) and culture should be ordered for collection at least 1 hour apart, to rule out active TB.**