

PROGRAM NAME: SPA 3 & 4

PROJECT TITLE: Improvement of SPA 3 & 4 LTBI Completion Rate

DPH STRATEGIC GOAL/OBJ.: Obj.2.2.c Assure that clinical preventive services provided by DPH are consistent with evidence-based recommendations and standards through use of continuous quality improvement.

PROJECT TIMELINE: 10/01/15 to 09/30/16

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PLAN
Identify an opportunity and Plan for Improvement

1. Getting Started

The Healthy People 2020 goal is to have a 79% completion rate of patients who start treatment for Latent TB Infection (LTBI); In SPA 3, the completion rate was 59% in 2013 and 61.2% in 2014. In SPA 4, the completion rate was 36% in 2013 48.5% in 2014.

2. Assemble the Team

A multidisciplinary Project Team was assembled from all four Health Centers in SPA 3 & 4. The team included representatives from the Business Office, Nursing, the Area Medical Director and Health Program Analysts.

3. Examine the Current Approach

The majority of LTBI patients were prescribed Isoniazid (INH) therapy (one pill per day) for 6-9 months. However, since LTBI treatment time varies and patients sometimes stop treatment and resume later due to adverse reactions, INH treatment may last up-to 12 months, reducing compliance. Also, there was not a systematic way to capture real-time data on LTBI treatment since treatment information was provided directly to TB Control Program for data entry and analysis.

4. Identify Potential Solutions

The main component of this project was to expand short-course LTBI therapy (e.g., 3HP and Rifampin) to patients who meet criteria (CHS Policy 509). 3HP would decrease the length of treatment time from 9 months to 12 weeks and Rifampin would decrease treatment to 4 months. In order to track treatment

completion in real-time, an LTBI Treatment Tracking Form was created for each health center to track all patients starting INH, 3HP and Rifampin during the project period. Lastly, the Project Team worked with management to ensure that the policy and eligibility criteria was reviewed with clinical staff and physicians.

5. Develop an Improvement Theory

By September 30, 2016, increase the percent of LTBI patients who complete treatment by 5%.

DO
Test the Theory for Improvement

6. Test the Theory

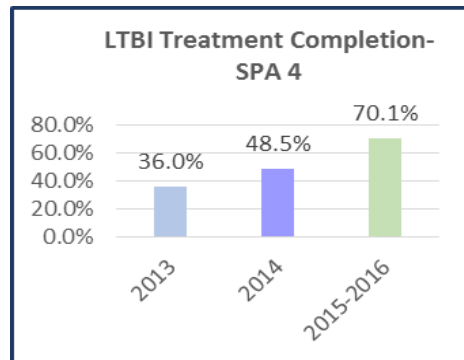
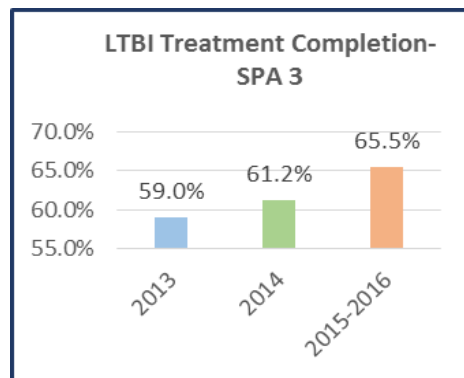
From 12/01/15 to 9/30/16, SPA 3 & 4 Health Centers offered short-course LTBI therapy to all eligible patients and tracked treatment completion and treatment refusal reasons. Staff submitted tracking forms every three months for the Project Team to review. If patients were noncompliant, staff provided additional education about the importance of LTBI treatment and followed up by phone with patients that broke or missed appointments.

CHECK
Use Data to Study Results of the Test

7. Check the Results

We exceeded our goal of increasing the percent of LTBI patients who complete treatment by 5%.

- SPA 3 had an **11%** increase from the 2013 rate and a **7%** increase from the 2014 rate.
- SPA 4 had a **94.7%** increase from the 2013 rate and a **44.5%** increase from the 2014 rate.



Some barriers identified to LTBI treatment included medication side effects and lost wages and/or inability to take time off work.

ACT
Standardize the Improvement and Establish Future Plans

8. Standardize the Improvement or Develop New Theory

SPA 3 & 4 clinics will continue to offer, promote, and educate about short-term LTBI treatment to all eligible patients.

9. Establish Future Plans

Based on barriers identified, future efforts may include expanding video Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for patients that have trouble getting to the health center on a weekly basis.