

**Title** Screening Patients With Diabetes Mellitus For Tuberculosis

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**Reference** Technology Review Report – 002/2014, online:  
[http://www.moh.gov.my/index.php/database\\_stores/store\\_view\\_page/30/232](http://www.moh.gov.my/index.php/database_stores/store_view_page/30/232)

## Aim

To assess the effectiveness, feasibility and cost-effectiveness of TB screening program among patients with DM

## Conclusions and results

There were few retrievable studies on the feasibility and effectiveness of TB screening programme among DM patients. All the studies were observational studies without comparisons and mostly conducted in countries with a high burden of TB disease. Nevertheless the studies showed that TB screening among DM was feasible and the number needed to screen ranged from 291 to 1132 depending on TB prevalence.

The screening methods used were mainly based on asking five main symptoms, namely cough for longer than two weeks; night sweats for four weeks or longer; fever for four weeks or longer; weight loss over the previous four weeks and any suspicion of active TB to account for extrapulmonary TB (EPTB). Patients with a positive answer to any of the five questions will be referred to TB services for further investigations. Patients who were diagnosed with TB, will receive TB treatment and continued DM treatment at the DM clinic.

Standardized guidelines on screening and referral, monitoring and reporting and training of staffs working in the health clinics is crucial to ensure the success of the screening programme.

## Recommendations

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## Methods

Literature was searched through electronic databases which included MEDLINE, Cochrane Library via Ovid, EMBASE, PubMed and general databases such as Google Scholar.

The search strategy used these terms either singly or in various combinations: tuberculosis, TB, diabetes mellitus, DM and screening.

The search was limited to human study. The last search was conducted on 2 January 2014.

## Further research/reviews required

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## Written by

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