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World TB
Day on 24th
March 2012.

TB SPECIAL EDITION

Public Health Protection Unit
Telephone 0141 201 4917

e-mail: phpu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Fax 0141 201 4950

TB in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

This special edition newsletter coincides with World TB Day on 24th March 2012. The aim of which is to build awareness that TB today remains an epidemic in much of the world, causing the deaths of several million people each year.

In recent years Scotland has had a relatively low and stable incidence of tuberculosis. Compared with other parts of the UK and Europe the disease has not been a significant problem. However, the recent epidemiological evidence suggests that the picture may be changing. While tuberculosis in Scotland is still at lower levels than elsewhere in the UK, the numbers of cases we are now seeing are suggestive of an increasing incidence.

In 2010, there were 506 reported cases of TB in Scotland - an incidence of 9.7 per 100,000 populations. This is a 4.1% increase compared to 2009. The incidence in Scotland is still within the WHO target of less than 10 cases per 100,000 and is less than the rate in England (16.0) and the rate for the whole of the UK (14.6).

The majority of TB cases in Scotland are in Greater Glasgow and Clyde. In 2010 there were 234 TB cases in GGC - an incidence of 19.4 per 100,000 populations. The number of cases in GGC in 2009 and 2008 were 236 cases and 213 respectively. The provisional number for 2011 was 203.

The number of cases in Greater Glasgow and Clyde has been increasing over the past 5 years. However, the number of cases per year among the indigenous population has been steady. The rise in cases seen in Greater Glasgow and Clyde is predominantly due to an increase in cases among the immigrant population. Such people were born and infected with TB outside of the UK and develop active TB a number of years after they come to this country. This is the same in other parts of the UK.

The risk factors for developing TB among the indigenous population of Greater Glasgow and Clyde include deprivation, homelessness, and drug and alcohol misuse.

Symptoms and diagnosis

TB commonly infects the lungs and respiratory tract, but it can infect almost any part of the body. The symptoms of TB vary, depending on which part of the body is infected.

Consider TB as a diagnosis in patients who have had a cough and sputum for more than 3 weeks, particularly if there has been weight loss, fever, chest pain or haemoptysis. Sputum samples should be sent to the local lab.

Scottish TB Action Plan

The Scottish Government published the Scottish TB Action Plan in March 2011 in response to a World Health Organisation's resolution calling for all Member States to develop and implement long-term plans for tuberculosis prevention and control in line with the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/18095603/0>

The Action Plan includes recommendations in the following areas:

- Effective laboratory services and diagnostic tools;
- Effective clinical services;
- Effective surveillance and
- Effective screening and public health services

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has already implemented many of the recommendations within the Plan, but introducing more comprehensive new entrant screening for TB is one area which will be addressed within the Board this year.

TB Specialist Nurses

A team of highly trained TB nurses works across the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area and supports TB patients from time of diagnosis. They work closely with respiratory and ID physicians and offer advice to patients and their families, support patients with their medication (including directly observed therapy for patients with compliance difficulties) and arrange contact tracing.

See table below for TB nurses' contact details

Name	Sector	Postcodes	Tel no/ email address
Una Lees	East/N East	G4 G21 G22G20 G15* G23* G62*	211 4958 Una.Lees@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Ellen McGeogh	East	G31 G32 G33 G34 G40 G64 G65 G66 G69 G71 G12* G61* G13*	211 4958 Ellen.McGeogh@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Catriona Paterson	West	On maternity leave until April	211 3062 Catriona.Paterson@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Mary Waldemichael	S West	G2 G41, G46 G51 G52 G53 G11* G14*	201 1176 Mary.Waldemichael@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Sharon Davis	S East	G1 G5 G42 G43 G44 G45 G72, G73 G76 G77 G3* G60* G81*	201 5250 Sharon.Davis@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Pauline Robbie	Renfrewshire	G78 PA1 – PA13 G83 G82*	0141 314 4660 Pauline.Robbie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Colin Marchment	Inverclyde	>PA13	01475 501 266 Colin.Marchment@ggc.scot.nh.uk

* Postcode areas of Catriona Paterson being temporarily covered during her maternity leave

BCG

The PHPU organises hospital and community clinics to provide BCG immunisation to over 2000 babies and young children per year in accordance with Green Book recommendations, i.e. BCG should be offered to infants with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater.

Princess Royal Maternity

Babies born here are identified before discharge and given an appointment for the BCG clinic which is held at the PRM twice per month.

Southern General Hospital

Babies born here are identified before discharge and appointments are sent from PHPU for either Govanhill community clinic, Calder Street, (2 clinics per month) or Woodside Health Centre (2 clinics per month). Mantoux testing for young children is available at Woodside clinic if required. Health visitors are welcome to contact the PHPU on 0141 201 4538 to confirm that a BCG appointment has been requested for a baby.

RAH and Inverclyde Royal Hospital

For babies born here, BCG clinics are held once a month in Paisley and Greenock. Appointments can be requested by calling the TB nurses in the area or the PHPU on 0141 201 4538

New-entrant screening project

The PHPU writes to all new entrants to the UK who come to Glasgow from countries with a high incidence of TB and who are notified by Port Health at Heathrow and Gatwick airports. New entrants are sent information about TB, how to register with a GP and are offered screening for TB.

Notifications from the port of entry are received for only a small proportion of all new entrants to the country. PHPU and the TB nurses will start a pilot project later in 2012 offering TB screening to new entrants who have registered with a GP and who come from countries with a very high incidence of TB (greater than 150/100,000 cases per year).

Information leaflets on-line

[A Guide to Anti-tuberculous Treatment](#)

[TB information for patients](#)

[TB information for contacts](#)

[TB General Information](#)

[BCG Factsheet FAQs](#)

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this newsletter please contact Marie Laurie on 0141 201 4933 or at marie.laurie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk