

GHANA NATIONAL TB PATIENT CHARTER

Rights and Responsibilities



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PATIENTS RIGHTS

The TB patient has the right to:

CARE

- The right to free and equitable access to tuberculosis care, from diagnosis through treatment to completion, regardless of resources, race, gender, age, language, legal status, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, culture, or having another illness.
- The right to receive medical consultation and treatment from doctors, nurses and other appropriate specialists. This care should fully meet the National Tuberculosis care for all forms of TB disease including drug-resistant tuberculosis or TB-HIV co-infections and preventive treatment for young children and others considered to be at high risk
- To receive full, reliable, individualized treatment without interruptions due to lack of medicine
- The right to benefit from proactive health sector community outreach, education, and prevention campaigns as part of comprehensive care programs
- The right to ask healthcare providers for transfers to a health facility closer to you the patient.
- To have the moral support of your family, friends, health care personnel and community in general.
- The right to nutritional security or food supplements if needed to meet treatment requirements



DIGNITY AS A PERSON

- The right to be treated with respect and dignity, including the delivery of services without stigma, prejudice, or discrimination by health providers and authorities
- The right to quality healthcare in a dignified environment, with moral support from family, friends, and the community without informed consent and without being coerced in any way
- Not to be the subject of a clinical exhibit or medical experiment without informed consent and without being coerced in anyway.

INFORMATION

- The right to information about what healthcare services are available for tuberculosis and what responsibilities, engagements, and direct or indirect costs are involved
- The right to receive a timely, concise, and clear description of the medical condition, with diagnosis, an opinion as to the likely course of the illness, and treatment proposed, with communication of common risks, and appropriate alternatives
- The right to know the names and dosages of any medication or intervention to be prescribed, its normal actions and potential side-effects, and its possible impact on other conditions or treatments
- The right of access to medical information which relates to the patient's condition and treatment and to a copy of the medical record if requested by the patient or a person authorized by the patient
- To receive clear, simple information and advice so as to defend your own health, avoid relapse and protect your family, friends and others who could be at risk of contracting TB
- The right to meet, share experiences with peers and other patients and to voluntary counseling at any time from diagnosis through treatment completion



CHOICE

- The right to a second medical opinion, with access to previous medical records
- The right to choose whether or not to participate in special medical procedures that facilitate diagnosis or cure and to be given complete, clear and adequate information regarding the risks and benefits involved.
- The right to choose whether or not to take part in research programs without compromising care



CONFIDENCE

- The right to have personal privacy, dignity, religious beliefs, and culture respects
- The right to have information relating to the medical condition kept confidential and released to other authorities dependent upon the patient's consent

TREATED WITH JUSTICE

- The right to make a complaint through channels provided for this purpose by the health authority and to have any complaint dealt with promptly and fairly
- The right to appeal to a higher authority if the above is not respected and to be informed in writing of the outcome
- The right to not be excluded from your place of study because of your state of health and to resume studies when authorized to do so by your attending doctor.



ORGANIZE AND PARTICIPATE

- The right to join, or to establish, organizations of people with or affected by tuberculosis and to seek support for the development of these clubs and community-based associations through the health providers, authorities, and civil society
- The right to participate as “stakeholders” in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of tuberculosis policies and programs with local, national, and international health authorities

JOB SECURITY

- To continue working after being diagnosed, to receive time off because of illness, not being dismissed or fired because of sickness and to return to work when the doctor gives authorization.
- To be given the chance to receive supervised treatment and to take time off as required by your present state of health.



PATIENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

The TB patient have the responsibility to:

INFORM TRUTHFULLY

- The responsibility to provide the healthcare providers with as much information as possible about your present health, past illnesses, any allergies, and any other relevant details
- The responsibility to provide information to the healthcare providers about contacts with immediate family, friends, and others who may be vulnerable to tuberculosis or may have been infected by contact
- The responsibility to inform any family members you live with about being sick and avoid hiding this fact. Take necessary measures to avoid spreading the illness.
- Quickly and honestly inform health personnel if you experience any adverse reaction to any medications, if you improve or get worse, if something begins to bother you, or if any other such difficulty arises.



FOLLOW TREATMENT

- Follow the treatment process prescribed by your doctor. Follow through with this treatment until completion to protect your health and the health of your family, community and the health personnel that are treating you. Follow instructions regarding when to come for sputum diagnosis, taking medication, attending checkups with appropriate medical professionals.
- The responsibility to inform the health providers of any difficulties or problems with following treatment or if any part of the treatment is not clearly understood
- Take your medications regularly and without skipping any doses until treatment is completed.



CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Share information with your family, friends and others in your community about the need for early detection and timely treatment of tuberculosis.
- The responsibility to contribute to community well-being by encouraging others to seek medical advice if they exhibit any symptoms of tuberculosis
- The responsibility to show consideration for the rights of other patients and healthcare providers, understanding that this is the dignified basis and respectful foundation of the tuberculosis community
- The responsibility to dispose of Sputum safely by disinfecting or burying them.



SHOW SOLIDARITY

- The moral responsibility of showing solidarity with other patients, marching together towards cure
- The moral responsibility to share information and knowledge gained during treatment and to pass this expertise to others in the community, making empowerment contagious
- The moral responsibility to join in efforts to make your community tuberculosis free. Actively participate with other social groups in activities that prevent and control tuberculosis



PERSONAL CARE AND CARE OF OTHERS

- Take responsibility for your health. Learn about all the stages of your prescribed treatment to avoid abandoning treatment, thus incurring the risk of becoming drug resistant and advancing the illness
- Give priority to activities that help you recover from your illness: eat a balanced diet, get enough rest, do not work during the night and live a healthy lifestyle.
- Respect health care staff, other TB patients, health promoters and other community based organization and take measures not infect them. Encourage household and people in close contact with you to be screened.



PARTICIPATE IN SOME ORGANIZATION OF PERSONS AFFECTED BY TB

- Find out about and participate in an organization of persons affected by Tuberculosis in your area.
- Support and strengthen the development of the organization of persons affected by TB at different organizational levels
- Actively participate in meetings of your specific organization by giving your opinion, collaborating and assuming responsibilities. Always seek to strengthen the organization and actively participate in the fight against TB.





THE NATIONAL TB PROGRAMME
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