



December 9, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to share with you the release of CDC's guidelines regarding the use of a new regimen for the treatment of latent tuberculosis (TB) infection, [\*Recommendations for Use of an Isoniazid–Rifapentine Regimen with Direct Observation to Treat Latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis Infection\*](#). One of the biggest breakthroughs in treatment for latent TB infection since the 1960s, this new regimen, referred to as the 12-dose regimen, is a combination regimen of isoniazid (INH) and rifapentine (RPT) given in 12 once-weekly doses under directly observed therapy (DOT).

CDC's recommendations come on the heels of results from a recent large CDC-sponsored multi-national clinical trial, first announced during the American Thoracic Society conference in May 2011, and results published in *New England Journal of Medicine* this week. This clinical trial found the 12-dose regimen to be as effective for preventing TB as other latent TB infection treatment regimens. The new regimen has significant benefits over the previous standard of treatment by cutting the doses required from 270 daily doses (9 months of INH alone) to 12 once-weekly doses (3 months of INH and RPT). Two additional studies also found the 12-dose regimen to be as effective as other regimens in preventing new cases of TB disease.

It is important to realize that the new regimen does not replace other recommended treatment options for latent TB infection, but can be considered as another convenient option for treating persons with latent TB infection in certain risk groups. Also, the regimen can be considered for specific groups when it offers practical advantages, such as completion of treatment within a limited timeframe.

More information about latent TB infection, recommended treatment options, and the 12-dose regimen is available on the CDC Division of Tuberculosis Elimination's Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/tb>. The guidelines can also be accessed directly at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6048a3.htm?s\\_cid=mm6048a3\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6048a3.htm?s_cid=mm6048a3_w).

Sincerely,

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[www.cdc.gov/nchhstp](http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp)

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