

## **MANUEL: Case Management and Personal History**



Manuel is 24. Over the last 3 months he has had weight loss, felt unusually tired, and had occasional night sweats. Two days ago, he developed chest pain and shortness of breath. Yesterday, he went to the ED and was diagnosed with smear (+), pulmonary TB, started on RIPE, and sent home with 5 days of meds. Manuel's diagnosis was reported to the local health department yesterday morning.

The case manager called Manuel late in the afternoon yesterday to set up a home visit and educate Manuel about TB and the importance of isolating at home. Manuel speaks English without any accent and is very polite. He answers questions but doesn't volunteer information. The case manager learns that:

- Manuel's symptoms started in August, but he didn't seek care until October
- Manuel isn't married and doesn't mention anyone else in his household
- Manuel has health insurance but doesn't have a regular doctor or place of healthcare.

The case manager tells Manuel to isolate at home and that he will come to Manuel's home at 11:00 a.m. the next day to meet him, give him some more information about TB treatment, and to start directly observed therapy. After speaking with Manuel, the case manager also sets up an appointment with a TB clinician for later in the week.

This morning, when the nurse went to the address Manuel gave, he finds that Manuel doesn't live there. He calls Manuel, but no answer. The nurse checks Manuel's hospital medical record and finds an employer address and phone number. He calls the workplace and reaches Manuel there by phone. He explains again that Manuel can't be at work while he's in isolation. Manuel agrees to leave work and meet the case manager in the health department isolation room.

When they meet, the nurse notices Manuel has a tattoo on his forearm: the word "Mikey" with wings around it. The case manager tells Manuel that he tried to meet with him at home and he needs his current address so that they can provide daily DOT throughout his treatment.

### ***Biography***

Manuel is the son of Filipino-Mexican farmworkers. His family is trilingual—Tagalog (Pilipino), Spanish, and English. Manuel was born in the U.S. and graduated from high school here. He works as a supervisor for a large apple grower and was able to work during the pandemic since his work is mostly outside. (Mikey was Manuel's older brother who died in a farm accident 2 years ago.) Manuel reads English better than Spanish and doesn't read Tagalog. Manuel knows that his grandmother in the Philippines died of TB, but doesn't think there is any TB in the U.S.

Manuel lives with his partner Elena, her son, her grandparents and Manuel and Elena's 20-month-old daughter. Elena and her 7-year-old son are asylum seekers from Guatemala. Elena's grandparents are naturalized American citizens from Guatemala.

### **ELENA: *Personal and TB History***

Elena is 26. She had three months of cough, fatigue, and weight loss. She treated her symptoms with over-the-counter remedies and herbal teas that her grandmother made, until she developed hemoptysis and went to the emergency room. There she was diagnosed with smear (+), pulmonary TB.



### ***Biography***

Elena came to the U.S. from Guatemala in late 2016 with her baby son, fleeing domestic violence. She graduated from high school in Guatemala.

Elena requested asylum at the border and was released to Oregon because she could live there with her grandparents while her asylum case proceeded. Her asylum application qualifies her for a provisional U.S. work permit while waiting for final asylum decision.

Elena lives with her son, now 7 years old, her partner Manuel, her grandparents, and Manuel and Elena's 20-month-old daughter. They moved in with Elena's family in late 2020 to form a pandemic safe bubble and to save money. Elena's grandparents are naturalized American citizens from Guatemala.

Elena has worked fulltime as a cashier in a restaurant and as a part-time bookkeeper for Latinx business owners. Elena speaks some English but speaks mostly Spanish at home since the pandemic.

Elena is uninsured and ineligible for Medicaid because she doesn't have a green card. She had Emergency Medicaid during her pregnancy.