

## A Call to Action on World Tuberculosis Day

Tuberculosis (TB) is a preventable infectious disease that can be treated and cured, yet globally it claims a staggering 1.4 million lives every year and remains one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases. Caused by the bacterium known as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, TB primarily attacks the lungs but can spread to other parts of the body like the kidney or brain. Not everyone infected with the bacteria becomes sick, but it can be fatal if it is not treated properly.

Despite being one of the oldest known diseases, TB stubbornly remains a significant modern-day problem in many countries and some regions of Canada. While the overall rate of TB is low in this country, the disease disproportionately affects Canadian communities that experience higher rates of poverty, crowded living conditions, and poor access to health care.

World TB Day on Wednesday, March 24 is a global public health campaign marked by WHO and millions of others to raise awareness of the TB epidemic. The day serves as a critical reminder that we must continue to mobilize our scientific and public health resources, with the goal of preventing outbreaks, delivering treatment, and ultimately eliminating TB.

In view of the evolving evidence landscape and to meet the needs of pan-Canadian decision-makers, CADTH has undertaken its first condition-level review on the topic of TB. Rather than assess a single diagnostic test or therapy, we are supporting the *overall management* of TB along the continuum of care by delivering evidence on a range of technologies that span prevention, identification, treatment, and management. New work in this area includes more than 35 rapid evidence reviews, a policy brief, and a qualitative rapid review that are all mapped on a new and accessible online platform. Knowledge mobilization tools are also being developed to support implementation.

We believe that the mapped evidence and key messages will help inform policies and interventions that will improve patient care. Our efforts will also help identify knowledge gaps and areas where more work and collaboration are needed to reduce the transmission of TB in Canada.

To mark World TB Day, let's recommit to using evidence in a way that improves outcomes, optimizes our resources, and puts patients at the centre of all our efforts.

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