

# Latent TB treatment

*Information for the community about treatment for 'latent' or 'sleeping' TB*

'Latent' or 'sleeping' Tuberculosis (TB) is when you have the TB germ in your body but it is not making you sick.

Lots of people have latent TB and don't even know it.

Latent TB can show up in skin or blood tests.

It is very important to treat latent TB because it can 'wake up' at any time and make you very sick. When TB is awake it can spread through to your family and community.

Children and people with other health problems like diabetes and kidney disease are more at risk of getting sick.



## Medications

If you have latent TB, your doctor will give you a mix of antibiotics (medications) to take either every day or once per week.

You will need to take them for three months or more, depending on your age and health.

There are different types of medications which your doctor can explain to you.

## Taking medications

It is extremely important that you take all the medicines your doctor asks you to, for as long as they say.

It might seem strange to be taking medication when you do not feel sick, but it is to protect you and your family.

If your medication is to be taken once per week, it is very important to take it on the same day every week.

Your health worker might ask you to come into the clinic or might visit you at home. This is to make sure that you are doing okay and to answer any question you may have.

Please tell your doctor or nurse if you have any side effects.

If you know someone getting treatment for latent TB, please support them. Make sure they are doing okay and help them to take all their medications. If you are worried, please tell your clinic.

### For more information:

Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA TB Services  
Telephone: (08) 7074 1089 (business hours)  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)

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