



Understanding the economics of Tuberculosis (TB) patients in the private sector – March 2022

The George Institute
for Global Health India

Facts:

- Drug sales data in India suggested a steady trend of TB treatment dispensed by the private sector, from 18.4 million patient-months in 2013 to 16.6 million in 2016.
- Seven of 29 states in India accounted for more than 70% of national level TB treatment volumes in the private sector.
- There are only three studies in India (covered total of 102 patients) that estimated the cost of the TB patients treated in the private sector.

Background:

- Eliminating TB is a high priority for the government of India by 2025, however, despite robust public health interventions, the ability to harness the private sector for TB control is fraught with gaps.
- The National Strategic plan stated its intention to extend the umbrella of high-quality TB care and control for those treated in the private sector, highlighting the Private Sector Engagement (PPE) as an important strategy to eliminate TB.

Aims:

The primary objectives of the study are to determine if exposure to the PPE strategy:

- (a) Reduces out of pocket expenses of TB treatment and incidence of catastrophic expenditure
- (b) Reduces delay to correct diagnosis and appropriate treatment and follow up
- (c) Improves medication adherence and treatment outcomes

Project Cycle:

2021-2026

Partners:

Central TB Division, MoHFW, New Delhi
Foundation for Medical Research, Mumbai
Indian School of Business, Hyderabad

Supporters:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Principal Investigators

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Methods:

- In this prospective cohort study, adult pulmonary TB patients will be interviewed at intake, 3 months and 6 months of treatment.
- Patients will be sampled from five districts in five states through notifications from private providers and chemists/drug stores.
- Around 250 patients from each city will be interviewed thrice. Along with this, the private providers who notified TB patients will be interviewed once.

Impact:

- This study will create an index of patient exposure to PPE strategy elements which includes patient, provider, and community-level variables and will determine the level of exposure to this strategy of an average privately treated patient in urban India.
- The cost of TB treatment in the private sector in India is unknown, the study will provide a detailed understanding of the same and the proportion of patients who experience catastrophic health expenditure because of TB treatment in the private sector.

Contact:

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