

Standards of Tuberculosis care: An Indian perspective

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ABSTRACT

Tuberculosis (TB) is a social disease with medical aspects accounting for 8.7 million new cases and 1.4 million deaths in the year 2011 worldwide. International standards for TB care (ISTC) were formulated to develop uniform guidelines for ensuring the delivery of a widely accepted level of care by all health care practitioners in managing TB patients, or those suspected to have tuberculosis. India alone has contributed 25% of the globally reported new cases of TB in 2011 and is also the leading nation in accounting for drug resistant TB (DR-TB). Thus to develop uniform standards of TB care and to engage private sector which caters to more than 70% of TB patients, the “central TB division” has developed standards of TB care in India

(STCI). These local standards have been designed after taking into account the guidelines of the World Health Organization and ISTC disease control STCI has proposed 26 standards (viz. diagnosis – 1 to 6; treatment – 7 to 11; public health – 12 to 21; social inclusion – 22 to 26) for effective prevention and control of TB. To conclude, the Indian standards of TB care have been proposed to emphasize on individual patient care and public health principles of disease control for ultimately reducing not only the suffering but also the economic losses from tuberculosis.

Key words: Tuberculosis; International standards for Tuberculosis care; India.
