

Group exercise - answers

Using the list of countries and the flowchart we provide, decide whether these people would be eligible for latent TB screening at a GP clinic. None of the individuals have ever been treated for TB.

1. A PhD student is in the final year of her PhD. She grew up in Nigeria and at age 18 she moved to the UK. She moved country 9 years ago. Last year, she spent a year in Malawi carrying out research.

Answer: She is eligible to be tested at a GP. Though Nigeria is an eligible country, it is irrelevant in this instance as she lived in the UK for over seven years after leaving. It is the trip to Malawi that means she is now eligible for testing.

2. A teacher from Nepal moved to the UK four years ago when he was 32. He still goes back to Nepal every summer to teach English for two months.

Answer: He is not eligible to be tested at a GP. Although he is from Nepal (an eligible country), he is now 36 and so above the age range. If he is still concerned about latent TB, he can ring his local TB nurse.

3. An Eritrean 17 year old came to England as an unaccompanied minor when she was 10 years old. She has not left England since then. She lives in a house with recent refugees from sub-Saharan African countries.

Answer: She is not eligible for a LTBI test at a GP. She has been living in the UK for the past 7 years. Even though she may live in a house with recent refugees who may well have latent TB, we need to remember that latent TB is not infectious. Therefore, there is no need for this individual to get tested. However, she is at increased risk of having been exposed to active TB, so if she is worried, she can ring her local TB nurse to ask for advice.

4. An engineer from India arrived in the UK on a work visa 12 years ago when she was 25 years old. She is married to a German man and they have two young children. In 2017 she worked in her company's India office for 8 months.

Answer: She is not eligible to be tested at a GP. The reason for this is because she is not within the age range. However, she may still be worried, as she has recently been working in India for 8 months. If she is worried about latent TB, she can call her local TB nurse.

5. A Bangladeshi family immigrated to the UK four years ago. They spent their first three years in London, and then moved to York. Before moving to the UK, they had spent six months in Australia. The father is 43 years old, the mother is 34 years old and their children are aged 16, 12 and 9.

Answer: The mother is eligible to be tested at a GP, as is her 16 year old child. Her other children who are under the age of 16 are not eligible for a free LTBI test at a GP, and the father is 8 years above the age range. If the rest of the family have concerns about their TB risk, they can ring their local TB clinic for advice.

6. An Egyptian couple (aged 28 and 26), who are both electricians, moved to Tunisia for work and lived there for three years. They then got jobs at a new company in Southampton and have been living in the UK for the past 3 years.

Answer: Neither individual is eligible for an LTBI test. Egypt and Tunisia are not in the list of eligible countries.