START HERE

Is the patient being treated for pulmonary TB?

Yes

Has the patient received at least 2 weeks of TB treatment?

Yes

Are there 3 consecutive negative AFB smears from separate days?

Yes

Contact the Department of Infection Control & Prevention to discuss removal from airborne precautions

No

Has the patient received at least 2 weeks of TB treatment?

Yes

Are there 3 negative AFB smears collected at least 8 hours apart?

Yes

Contact the Department of Infection Control & Prevention to discuss removal from airborne precautions

No

Are there 3 negative AFB smears collected at least 8 hours apart?

Yes

Is the patient at high-risk for TB? See Box A for examples

No

Is there at least 1 negative AFB smear collected from a directed BAL or induced sputum?

Yes

Is there at least 1 negative non-induced sputum AFB smear?

No

Has an alternate diagnosis been established?

Yes

Do NOT remove the patient from airborne precautions. Contact the Department of Infection Control & Prevention with questions

No

Is the patient at high-risk for TB? See Box A for examples

Yes

Is there at least 1 negative AFB smear collected from a directed BAL or induced sputum?

No

Has an alternate diagnosis been established?

Yes

The decision to remove a patient from airborne precautions must consider the risk of possible disease transmission to other patients as well as healthcare workers. The decision should be careful and well-reasoned. This guide is designed to assist clinicians in determining if a patient may be eligible for removal from airborne precautions in patients with suspected or confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis. It is not intended to replace sound clinical judgment. Many patients have specific issues that make the use of this guide difficult. Such patients should be discussed with the Department of Infection Control and Prevention before a patient is removed from airborne precautions.

BOX A. High-risk conditions

1. Any HIV + patient
2. Cavitary upper lobe lung lesion
3. Cough ≥ 2 weeks with
   - Fever
   - Abnormal CXR
4. Travel to/from a high-risk area
5. History of:
   - Incarceration
   - Homelessness
6. Use of immunosuppressants with the past 6 months (e.g. TNF-α inhibitors, high-dose steroids)

For questions or concerns call 936-0725

Vanderbilt Infection Control and Prevention