OB Nurse at Local Hospital Diagnosed With Active Tuberculosis

Case Study
Angela Gray, BSN, RN
Berkeley County Health Dept.
304-263-5131
Angie.K.Gray @wv.gov
The Importance of Tuberculosis Testing for Healthcare Workers

- Detect early conversion
- Detect possible TB case
- Prevent possible exposure
Index Case History

- 40 year old white female
- U. S. born
- Cough, fatigue, fever and night sweats
- No Hx of smoking, drugs, or alcohol abuse
- No Hx of HIV
Index Case Risk Factors

- Healthcare worker
- Recent international travel
- Recent adoption of a foreign-born child with LTBI
- Annual employment TB screening not conducted
Reasons for Delayed Diagnosis

• Misdiagnosed in ER (pneumonia) April 2007
• Prescribed Levaquin/masked symptoms
• Delayed TB testing
• CXRs June, July and October 2007 “unresolving pneumonia”
• CXR and CT Scan November 2007 read as normal
  • State TB employed physician later found RLL infiltrate
Delayed Treatment

- TST was obtained 10-24-07 - 17mm positive result
- Bronch performed 11-14-07
- Prescribed 4 drug therapy
  - discontinued 4 drug therapy after 7 days
  - cleared patient to return to work
- Culture positive December 2, 2007
  - Reported to Health Department at this point
Contact Investigation

611 Total Contacts Tested

- Family
- Patients
- Hospital Staff
TST on 146 infants
Contact Investigations Findings

- 2 Positive tests
  - 1 baby/completed treatment
  - 1 adult/did not complete treatment
    - To neighboring county for treatment
    - Intolerant of meds due to breast cancer treatment
Importance of Contact Investigation

- Prevent potential future case of TB
- Prevent potential case of TB Meningitis in Infants
- Identify LTBI cases
- Identify any further active cases
Hospital Cooperation

- Provided CXRs for the infants
- Provided LFTs for the infants
- Provided computer/monitor for CXR (disc) readings at the LHD
- Mailed notification letters to TB contacts
- Joint press release with LHD case at the hospital
Outcome

- Developed Partnership between LHD and Hospital
- Education for hospital staff
- Hospital staff now recognizes warning signs of TB infection
- Physicians more likely to follow protocol to detect and prevent additional exposure
- Potential cases are now reported as soon as the diagnostic process begins
“Think TB”