Prescription Services

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

Division of Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response/Behavioral Health
TB – Phone: 515-281-7504 www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/TB.aspx
STD – Phone: 515-281-3031 www.idph.state.ia.us/HivStdHep/

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

If money is tight, it can be difficult to pay for a trip to the doctor. But what if you are diagnosed with a disease that requires expensive medications? How will you pay for that, too? The Prescription Services program is there to help, providing free treatment for Iowans with an STD or with TB infection or disease.

By treating 2,000 Iowans a year for latent TB infection, approximately 200 infectious cases of TB are avoided each year. The program also provides treatment for about 7,000 Chlamydia cases per year at a cost of $1.81 per case per Iowan and over 1,000 cases of gonorrhea at a cost of $3.30 per case per Iowan. For Iowans not treated soon enough, 10% will develop a serious complication called Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, costing at least $1,167 per patient to treat.

Proper treatment prevents exposing others to diseases and their complications. The Prescription Services program provides treatment free of charge because going without treatment can be much more costly.

Did you know?

Each year, this program provides medication to treat more than 20,000 Iowans for sexually transmitted diseases and TB infection and disease.

Why are Prescription Services important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- TB disease remains a public health problem in Iowa with an average of 44 new cases reported every year. Many Iowans are infected by TB, but haven't developed symptoms (latent TB infection or LTBI) and will need antibiotics to prevent them from getting the disease. About 150,000 Iowans are currently infected with TB.
- More than half of all Iowans will have an STD sometime in their life.
- Children and young adults are particularly at risk for STDs. In 2010, 74% of reported Chlamydia cases were among 15 to 24 year olds.
- Untreated STDs can lead to serious, even life-threatening complications.
- Early treatment saves money! For example, treating someone with a latent TB infection costs about $15. Treating someone who has developed TB disease costs $2,000.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Prevent epidemics & the spread of disease

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

What do we do?

- Provide treatment for 2,000 Iowans with LTBI or TB disease each year.
- Provide treatment for more than 15,000 Iowans infected or exposed to chlamydial infection, gonorrhea, and syphilis each year.
- Ensure medications for active and suspected cases of TB are shipped within 24 hours of the prescription being written.
- Ensure medications for STD and LTBI are sent within three working days of the prescription being issued.
- Federal STD and TB grant funds cannot be used to buy medications for treating STD and TB patients. The Prescription Services program pays for medications that federal funds won't cover.

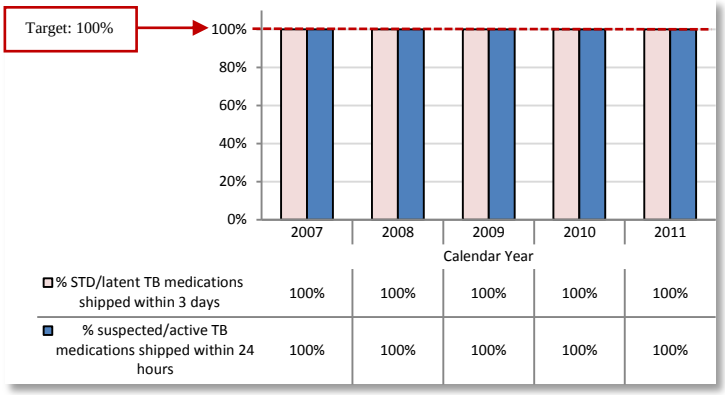
How do we measure our progress?

❶ **Percent of STD and latent TB infection medications shipped within three working days of the prescription request.**

❷ **Percent of medications for suspected/active cases of TB disease shipped within 24 hours of the prescription request.**

Data Source: Contract pharmacy database. Data are available monthly.

How are we doing? 100% of medications are shipped within the desired timeframe.



What can Iowans do to help?

1. Iowans of all ages should use safer sex practices, such as choosing one partner and knowing them well, regularly and correctly using latex condoms, or refraining from sex completely.
2. Iowans at risk of getting an STD should be tested, and if necessary, treated for STDs. To learn what puts you at risk of getting an STD, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/HivStdHep/.
3. Maintain a healthy lifestyle, especially when visiting countries where TB is common.
4. Health care professionals need to know about the availability and benefits of the program. Lack of awareness adversely affects Iowans who have no insurance or are underinsured.
5. Advocate for an increase in funding to continue these services. The rising costs of medication and no increases in program funding means fewer Iowans can be served each year.

Expenditures

General fund: K15-1541

	State Fiscal Year 2011 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Estimate
State funds	$112,492	$107,136	$105,095
Total funds	**$112,492**	**$107,136**	**$105,095**
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

Iowa Department of Public Health ◆ Division of Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response/Behavioral Health ◆ Prescription Services

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