



California  
Department of  
Health Services  
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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**GRAY DAVIS**  
Governor

March 7, 2003

TO: Tuberculosis Controllers

SUBJECT: **RECLASSIFYING UNLOCATED “MOVED” PATIENTS TO “LOST” ON THE REPORT OF VERIFIED CASE OF TUBERCULOSIS (RVCT)**

Beginning January 1, 2003, tuberculosis (TB) cases who move within California or to another state, **but are not located in the receiving jurisdiction**, will be reclassified as “Lost” on the Reports of Verified Cases of Tuberculosis (RVCT). For these patients who move during treatment, “Moved” will no longer be considered a final outcome for reporting purposes. The process for reclassifying moved patients who cannot be located is included in the revised “RVCT Instructions – Appendix II: RVCT Instructions for Tuberculosis Patients that Move”, included as Attachment 1 to this letter.

If a lost patient is relocated and returned to treatment within 12 months, the “Lost” outcome can be overwritten with “Treatment completed” in the Tuberculosis Information Management System (TIMS) database. A case who returns to treatment after a period of more than 12 months will be classified as a new case. The reclassification of “Moved” to “Lost” does not refer to patients who move out of the United States. At this time, patients who move out of the country will continue to receive a final outcome of “Moved”.

Please continue to use the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA) Interjurisdictional Tuberculosis Notification protocol and forms when you are transferring patient care to another jurisdiction in California, or to another state. RVCT reporting requirements for correctional TB cases who move prior to treatment completion are identical to those for non-correctional patients.

The Tuberculosis Control Branch (TBCB) offers assistance to local health jurisdictions in locating patients who are lost. Please refer to the Attachment 2, “Tuberculosis



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[www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html)

2151 Berkeley Way, Room 608, Berkeley, CA, 94704  
(510) 540-2973

Internet Address: [www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov)

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Patient Lost to Follow-up: TBCB Field Investigation Assistance” for information on how to access this service, and for a list of recommended investigative steps that should be taken when attempting to locate a TB patient.

Thank you for your cooperation with this new protocol, which we feel will better reflect the true nature of treatment outcomes for TB patients in California. This change in reporting will be effective for any TB case who moves after January 1, 2003. If you have any questions about this process, please contact me at (510) 883-6076.

Sincerely,

Janice Westenhouse, M.P.H.  
TB Registry Coordinator  
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Enclosures:

1. RVCT Instructions – Appendix II: RVCT Instructions for Tuberculosis Patients that Move
2. Tuberculosis Patient Lost to Follow-up: TBCB Field Investigation Assistance

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