



August 2, 2007

Carla Winston, PhD, MA
Principal Investigator
Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis Revision
Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Outbreak Investigations Branch
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Mailstop E-10
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Winston:

As Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET) and on behalf of the entire Committee, this letter conveys our support for the recently developed revision of the national tuberculosis surveillance data collection instrument, the Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis (RVCT).

This instrument is the most critical component of our national tuberculosis data collection on which ACET and Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) rely to monitor TB trends in the United States and to gauge progress toward TB elimination. DTBE provides regular updates on annual surveillance of TB case rates and on specific questions regarding TB epidemiology during ACET meetings based largely on RVCT data. Subsequent to those reports, ACET uses these data in its recommendations to CDC to enhance its policies and guidelines.

In March 2007, an update on the revised RVCT document was presented to ACET. ACET assigned a group of its members to review the RVCT data instrument and its instructions. In May 2007, these ACET reviewers proffered their individual and collective comments to DTBE. The comments were then considered by DTBE and incorporated to the updated RVCT document after being reviewed by DTBE senior staff in July, 2007. During the July, 2007 ACET meeting, ACET members formally endorsed the revised document for use once the required governmental vetting and clearance procedures are completed.

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We appreciate the opportunity to review the RVCT and support the revision process conducted by DTBE and the ultimate RVCT work product that resulted from that process. We believe that the RVCT revision represents an important step forward in collecting more accurate and timely information on our progress toward TB elimination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael E. Fleenor, MD, MPH".

Michael E. Fleenor, MD, MPH
Chair, Advisory Council for the Elimination of
Tuberculosis

cc: ACET Members

Dr. Kenneth Castro, ACET Acting Executive Secretary



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Executive Director:

Patrick J. McConnon, MPH

July 26, 2007

Lilia Manangan, RN, MPH
Epidemiologist

Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Outbreak Investigations Branch
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination
Mailstop E-10, CDC
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Dear Ms. Manangan,

On behalf of CSTE, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the RVCT. The RVCT was sent to the CSTE Chair for Infectious Diseases and the CSTE Lead Consultant for TB for their review and comment. The feedback was that the state epidemiology perspective is well represented in the review by State TB Controllers and many State Epidemiologists have been involved in the review process with their TB Controller or are themselves the State TB Controller. In summary, we are satisfied that the "epi perspective" is well represented in the review of the RVCT from the standpoint of getting better data.

Best Regards,

Patrick J. McConnon, MPH
Executive Director



**National
Tuberculosis
Controllers
Association**

2452 Spring Road, S.E., Smyrna, Georgia 30080-3828

September 14, 2007

Carla Winston, PhD, MA
Principal Investigator
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Centers For Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd, N.E., Mailstop E-10
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Winston,

The National TB Controllers Association (NTCA) has been happy to participate in the revision of the Verified Case of Tuberculosis surveillance form. NTCA Members have served on the revision work group, pilot tested the draft and then Kim Field and Randall Reves participated in the joint ACET and NTCA review of the document in April and May of 2007. The revision was then presented at the National TB Controllers Workshop in June, 2007 where it was further discussed in depth.

The NTCA and the National TB Nurse Coalition are happy to now endorse this revision and they look forward to using the document to improve the surveillance of newly counted cases in the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity for our organization to participate in this very important activity.

Sincerely,

James Cobb
President