

Virginia Department of Health Tuberculosis Program Use of Four-Month Treatment Regimen for TB Disease

In 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [interim guidance](#) on the use of a four-month treatment regimen for drug-susceptible TB disease. The regimen consists of an intensive phase of eight weeks of daily treatment with rifapentine (RPT), isoniazid (INH), pyrazinamide (PZA), and moxifloxacin (MOX) and a continuation phase of nine weeks of daily treatment with rifapentine, isoniazid, and moxifloxacin for a total of 17 weeks of treatment.

The four-month regimen allows eligible patients to complete treatment in a shorter period of time, but comes with specific eligibility criteria, an increased daily pill burden, and substantial cost due to the high daily dosage of rifapentine required during both the intensive and continuation phases.

For these reasons, the VDH TB Program currently recommends the use of this four-month treatment regimen in limited instances where there is a clear benefit to its use over other treatment regimens. Consultation with VDH TB Program nurse consultants is necessary prior to initiating the regimen.

Clinicians wishing to utilize this four-month treatment regimen for patients should consider the following:

1. Is the patient eligible for the four-month treatment regimen?

CDC has summarized inclusion and exclusion criteria in a [reference document](#). Primary inclusion criteria include the following:

- Pulmonary TB without resistance to INH, RPT (or rifampin as surrogate), PZA, or fluoroquinolones
- ≥ 12 years of age
- Body weight >40kg
- Not pregnant or breastfeeding
- No history of prolonged QT interval or current use of QT prolonging medications
- No current use of medications with drug interactions with treatment regimen
- If standard RIPE treatment for TB has been initiated, patient has been on treatment <30 days

2. Is the patient a good fit for the regimen?

- Younger, generally healthy patients, may be better able to tolerate the high dosage and avoid a regimen change.
- This regimen is preferred for patients who are outpatient only and who did not start RIPE in the hospital.

3. What are the benefits for use of the four-month regimen compared to other treatment regimens?

For example, the patient would benefit from short course treatment due to a specific situation (e.g., patient will relocate within 6 months and treatment completion is desired before departure)

After determining patient eligibility and benefits for use of the four-month treatment regimen, please contact the VDH TB program via phone at 804-864-7906 or by emailing tuberculosis@vdh.virginia.gov. VDH TB program staff will review the details of the patient's case, assess current pharmaceutical inventory/availability, and status of program funds to determine if it is clinically and financially feasible to initiate the four-month treatment regimen.