



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

Daniel Staley  
Acting Division Director

**Memorandum 2015-3**

TO: Local TB Nurses

FROM: Jason Stout, M.D.  
Medical Director  
NC TB Control Program

DATE: August 13, 2015

RE: Rifampentine shortage

We have been notified that rifampentine is on backorder, with a tentative date of early October to receive additional supply of drug. This shortage has the potential to affect latent tuberculosis treatment for patients who are taking isoniazid and rifampentine once-weekly for 12 weeks.

In light of this situation, we recommend the following:

- 1) Until the shortage resolves, no new patients should be started on isoniazid/rifampentine unless there is adequate local supply to complete a full course of treatment.
- 2) If an adequate supply of drug is not available to complete a patient's course of isoniazid/rifampentine, twice-weekly isoniazid and rifampin (at standard twice-weekly doses) may be substituted. All weeks in which either one dose of isoniazid/rifampentine or two doses of isoniazid/rifampin are received would count toward a completed 12-week course of latent tuberculosis treatment.
- 3) Like isoniazid/rifampentine, twice-weekly isoniazid/rifampin should be directly observed.
- 4) Daily isoniazid and rifampin (at standard daily doses), self-administered, may also be substituted for once-weekly isoniazid and rifampentine if twice-weekly, directly observed therapy is not feasible.

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov)

Tel 919-707-5000 • Fax 919-870-4829

Location: 5605 Six Forks Road • Raleigh, NC 27609

Mailing Address: 1931 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1931

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

