



Field Preparation & Safety

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August 22nd, 2024

TB Contact Investigation

August 21st – 22nd, 2024

San Antonio, Texas

Chelsea Hargrave, BS, CHES has the following disclosures to make:

- No conflict of interests
- No relevant financial relationships with any commercial companies pertaining to this educational activity





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Objectives

- Discuss field visit preparation
 - Purpose
 - Goal
 - Activities
- List the elements of worker safety
 - Environmental factors
 - Personal safety
 - Respiratory protection
 - Behavioral Health
 - Substance Abuse
 - Conflict Management



First Things First

- Know the purpose of your visit and determine if it is safe to engage in a client visit alone.
- Plan your field work before leaving the office.
 - Familiarize your self with your client. Review charts, intake forms, other staff for possible safety concerns (violence, substance abuse etc.)
 - Map your route to and from (multiple visits)
 - Mentally rehearse the visit and what needs to be accomplished.



What is the purpose of my visit?

Contact investigations aren't the only reason for field visits in TB programs

Field visits may also be conducted for:

- DOT
- Sputum collection
- TST/IGRA testing
- Monthly nurse reviews/blood draws



PREPARATION IS KEY!

Interview:

- 12-12062

DOT:

- Medication
- Calendar

Sputum:

- Conical tube
- Label
- Biohazard/ container

Review/Blood Draw:

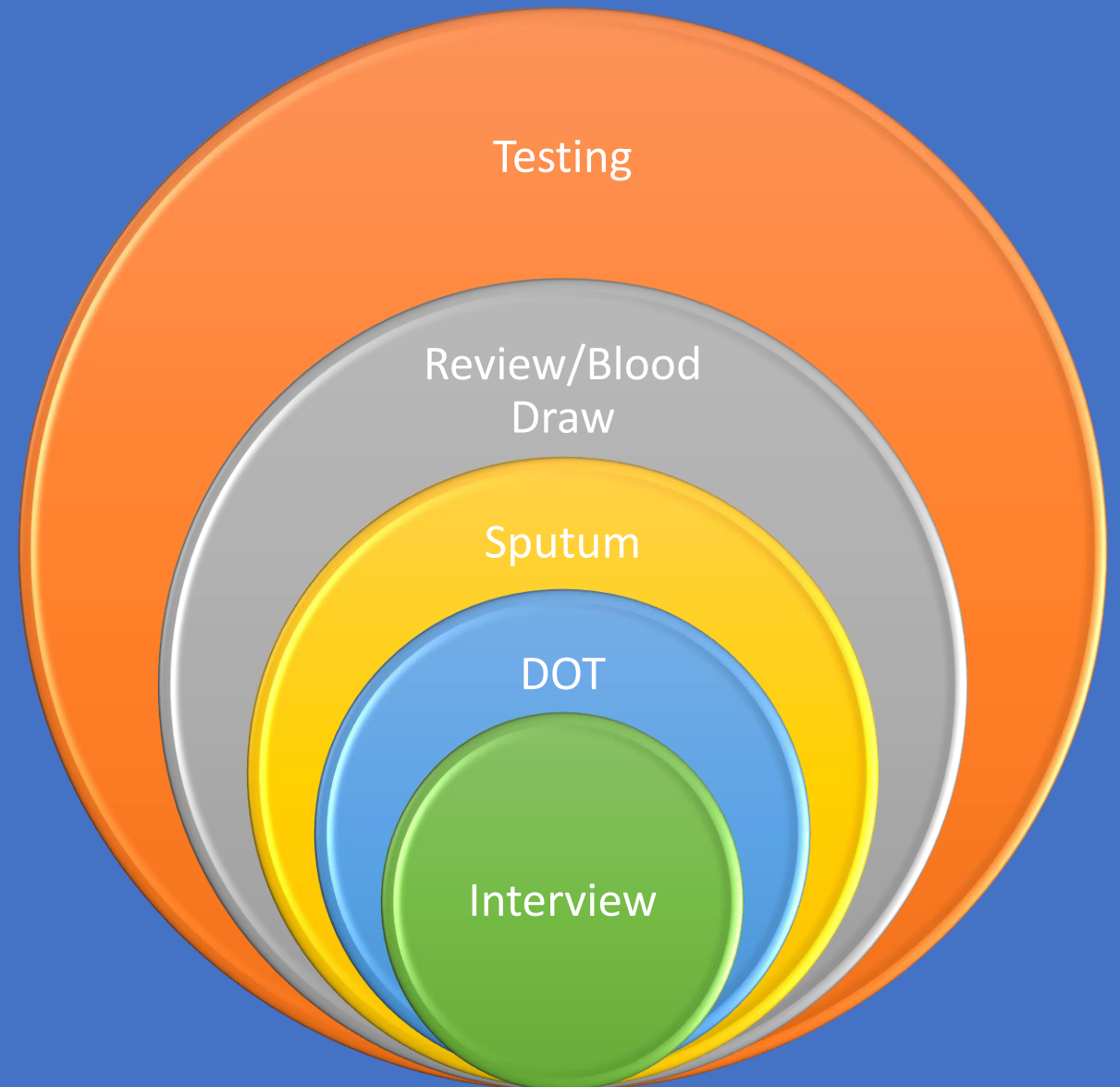
- Liver Enzymes
- Symptom checklist/ document

Testing:

- TSPOT/QGold Kits
- PPD

Every visit:

- Pen
- Paper
- Incentive
- Badge/ID



Scheduling the Visit

- Try to schedule during normal hours.
 - Daylight hours in the morning if possible.
 - Make sure the patient has an idea of how much your field visits will take, especially for the first few visits
- Share your itinerary
 - Supervisor, Co-worker, etc.
 - Also, let them know when you completed the FV.



What to Wear?

- Consider the following:
- **WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES!**
 - Heels vs. flats
 - Open toed vs. closed toed
- Jewelry – avoid flashy jewelry that could make you a target.
- Religious or political symbols – cautious wear.
- Long hair – wear it up to prevent it from being used against you.
- Ties & Scarves – use clip on ties that cannot present a choking danger.



Your Journey

- Map your route.
- Assure your vehicle is in good running condition, has gas, spare tire.
- When arriving at your destination back your vehicle into parking spaces. Face your car in the direction you want to leave. Park in a well-lit area.
- Always observe the residence or building before you enter.
- Use your intuition when approaching clients neighborhoods and homes.
- Use common sense.



Your Destination

- Lock your vehicle
- Observe your environment for any dangers
- When you knock, stand to one side
- Look and listen
- Confirm the patients ID
- Wait to be asked inside, go if comfortable
 - Let the patient lead the way



The Field Visit

- When entering, be aware of the exits and try to keep yourself between the client and the door.
- Sit near an exit or facing the hallways so you can view halls and bedrooms.
- Look before you sit. Try to sit on hard chairs as opposed to cushioned chairs.
- Take in only what you need.



The Field Visit

- Be respectful, try to avoid reacting to untidiness, surroundings and smells.
- Use non-threatening body language and remain calm and polite.
- Accepting food or drinks – be respectful to the clients home and feelings.



Leaving the Field Visit

- Exit the area with the same vigilance as when you came in.
- Approach your car with keys in hand.
- Do not linger in the area or in your car.
- Do not sit in your car to make notes or plan additional visits.
- If there were any incidents or problems let your supervisor know.



What in Our Environment Poses a Risk?

- Dogs
- Weather
- Infectious TB
- Behavioral Health
- Substance Abuse



Conflict Management

- What if a conflict happens?
 - Ideally, you want to help the angry person “come down” from his or her anger.
 - You must remain calm.
 - Don’t tell the person to “calm down.”
 - Instead, be empathetic. Talk about the frustration or problem that has come up.
 - Reflect feelings and behaviors such as “you seem angry.”
 - Defensiveness on your part validates the angry person, increasing the tension.
 - Reinforce your calm tone with non-threatening, non-confrontational body language.
 - Avoid extensive eye contact and physical closeness.
 - Be patient – even if it appears the patient is calming down, it takes a person 30 to 40 minutes to calm down from anger physiologically.



Weapons

- Assume that every home has a weapon of some kind and that every client can access a weapon.
- Look for weapons as you enter.
- Guns are often in bedrooms, knives are in the kitchen.
- Be ready to leave or ask for help if you feel the situation is out of control.



Personal Safety

- Be aware of your surroundings. Landscape? Are you in a well traveled area? Are those around you walking with a purpose or “hanging around”, Trust your gut, if something does not feel right is probably isn't.
- Keep in well populated areas. No alleys.
- Walk with a purpose. Look confident.
- If you think you are being followed change your path, cross the street, walk in another direction. Go into a store or well populated area if possible.
- Know the neighborhood. ID safe places you can go if you feel threatened.
- Have your keys in your hand while approaching your car.
- Check the area around your car as you approach.



Personal Safety

- If you are confronted, robbed or assaulted. Remember **YOUR LIFE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!!**
- Don't do anything to provoke a suspect, do everything you can to make them happy, so they leave the area and leaves you alone.
- If someone tries to harm you, sexually assault you, or take you make a scene. Make noise, kick, scream, fight back any way you can.
- If its property they want give it to them.
- Fight for your LIFE, not your property.
- Call 911 and follow your program procedures.



Plan Your V.I.S.I.T.

- **V**iew patients chart
- **I**tninerary
- **S**how me the way
- **I**nspect your vehicle
- **T**ake a charged cell phone



THANK YOU!!

Chelsea Hargrave

