

TB Program Videophones

Videophone DOT Procedure

Policy:

Videophone DOT will be used for carefully selected clients to minimize daily travel burden while treating TB disease. Client must meet the requirements as outlined below to ensure compliance with treatment.

General Information:

Directly observed therapy (DOT) requires a health worker to observe patients while they take medications to treat TB disease. This is done to ensure the entire course of medication is taken appropriately. Under certain circumstances, videophone DOT may be used to observe part of the DOT doses required for treatment completion. The health worker observes the patient over the videophone while the patient self-administers the TB medications.

Procedure:

1. Conduct an assessment of the patient to make certain the following conditions are met:
 - Patient has "land line" for their telephone (cell phones don't work).
 - Patient has been on "standard" DOT for 2 months and demonstrated 90% compliance during that time.
 - Patient has a stable residence with good lighting and an appropriate place for the videophone equipment.
 - Patient able to communicate effectively over the videophone.
 - Patient understands the need for TB treatment.
 - Patient knows his/her TB medications and how they should be taken.
 - Patient can accurately identify each pill.

- Distance of travel, time of day for DOT and/or other factors make videophone DOT the best option for DOT.
2. If the above criteria are met call TB program and request for videophone.
 3. The TB Program will approve or disapprove patient for videophone DOT based upon availability of phones and patient criteria. If approved, videophone will be sent to requestor.
 4. When videophone received, log on "Videophone Tracking Form".
 5. Obtain patient consents
 - Explain videophone DOT to patient.
 - Review "Videophone Consent Form" and "Videophone Release of Liability" with patient and obtain patient signatures. Store these forms in the patient's chart at the LHD.
 6. Install videophone in an appropriate location in the client's home with adequate lighting.
 - Position phone so there is no back lighting. The patient must be positioned so there's no strong light source such as direct sunlight or lamp between them and the videophone.
 - Connect the power supply.
 - Connect the phone lines.
 - Turn on the videophone.
 7. TB Staff demonstrates the use of the videophone to the patient.
 - Staff dials the client's number and presses button while the connection is being established.
 - Once client answers, staff instructs patient to push their button.
 - Correct lighting is established and patient is positioned for viewing their face and medications.
 8. Videophone DOT procedure:
 - TB staff calls the patient at a prearranged time.

- Patient and TB staff activates the video function per equipment procedure above.
- Patient displays their face on the videophone screen and confirms identity.
- TB staff inquires about any problems, medications side effects, refills needed, etc. before the patient takes their medications. Medications are held, if indicated, per existing protocols.
- Patient describes the medication by name, shape, size and/or other identifying qualities. Patient identifies the number of each type of medication to be taken.
- Patient holds medication in front of video camera before placing them in their mouth.
- Patient swallows medication in full view of camera.
- Patient repeats the same procedure for each medication to be taken.
- Prior to disconnecting, TB staff confirms the date and time of the next video DOT to be observed.

9. Documentation

- Document DOT given as is usual protocol. Write "V" on DOT Daily Log after your initials to indicate which days DOT was observed by videophone.

10. Return of phone

- Return phone to TB Program as soon as DOT is completed.
Return to:
Gayle Wainwright
HIV/STD/TB Program
Oregon Dept of Human Services
800 NE Oregon St., Ste. 1105
Portland, OR 97232
- Log on "Videophone Tracking Form" that it was returned.
- Call or email Gayle to let her know it's been returned.