

NURS 7081 TUBERCULOSIS (TB) SCREENING AND IMMUNISATION

Credit Points 10

Coordinator Stephen McNally ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Stephen McNally/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Stephen%20McNally/))

Description This subject will prepare registered nurses with the essential knowledge and skills required to perform Tuberculosis (TB) screening and immunisation, semi-independently. Students will be introduced to nurse led approaches for population-based screening and immunisation within a public health disease framework. The governance supporting nurse initiated diagnostic tests for TB and latent TB, as well as immunisation, will be explored. Students will develop the skills (including intradermal injection) required to perform, advocate, and promote screening for TB; latent TB infection and immunisation to prevent TB and vaccine preventable disease, in at risk populations. This will be supported with clinical practice tasks. Case studies will provide a focus for exploring risk factors for latent TB infection and progression to TB disease and opportunities for immunisation against TB and vaccine preventable disease. The nationally endorsed Clinical Skills Sets and Standards of Practice for the Specialist Tuberculosis Nurse will be used as the framework for student learning and assessment.

School Nursing & Midwifery

Discipline General Nursing

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 1 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in a postgraduate program: 4722 - Master of Nursing (Tuberculosis Management specialisation)

Learning Outcomes

1. Appraise the global, national, and jurisdictional context for TB screening and Immunisation from a public health perspective
2. Apply legal and ethical principles of practice to TB screening and Immunisation
3. Explicate the relationship between the immune system, TB screening and immunisation
4. Demonstrate the competency standards for TB screening and BCG vaccination as defined in the nationally endorsed TB Nurses *Clinical Skills Sets*
5. Demonstrate the knowledge required to perform Immunisation as defined by the HESA *Standards for the Accreditation of Immunisation Courses*
6. Justify the governance supporting semi-independent nursing practice within jurisdictional TB and Immunisation Programs

Subject Content

Introduction - Nurse initiated screening and immunisation for TB

- Public Health practice and governance to facilitate nurse initiated (semi-independent) screening and immunisation for TB.

Overview of TB

- Epidemiology, transmission, and pathogenesis of TB.
- Differentiating latent TB infection (LTBI) from TB disease.
- TB Prevention:
 - Treatment of LTBI and TB disease.
 - Role of BCG immunisation in a TB prevention and control program.

TB screening

- Risk Assessments for:
 - TB
 - Infectious TB
 - Latent TB
 - High risk groups
- Diagnostic Tests:
 - Tuberculin Skin Test (intradermal injection)
 - Interferon Gamma Release assays
 - Microbiology
 - Radiology
 - Other
- Results and nursing management.
- Patient education and documentation.
- Health facility onsite and offsite screening (and immunisation).

Immunisation (equivalent to shortest HESA accredited course)

- Standard 1: The Global and Australian Context for Immunisation
- Standard 2: The Law, Ethics and Immunisation
- Standard 3: The Immune System and Immunisation
- Standard 4: Immunisation Practice
 - History of BCG immunisation.
 - Concepts of control, elimination, and eradication of vaccine preventable diseases.
 - The role of surveillance in designing and monitoring immunisation programmes.
 - The construction of the National Immunisation schedule and current published policy.
 - The number, timing and spacing of doses and designing schedules for people with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status with the minimum number of visits.
 - Resources available locally and nationally to consult about immunisation issues.
 - Active and passive immunity, cell-mediated and antibody-mediated immunity, antibodies, and antigens / immune system response to a vaccine.
 - Concept of herd immunity, individual protection, and the effect of immunisation on the community.
 - Conditions that affect immunity and the immune response to vaccines.
 - Health facility onsite and offsite screening and immunisation.
 - Storage and handling requirements (cold chain).

- Vaccine administration procedures, practical course activities on BCG and (inc. management of adverse events / documentation).

Special Requirements

Essential equipment

Access to an internet enabled device is essential in order to be able to: access program materials; to participate in discussion groups; and to access additional resources provided by the lecturer during the term. See http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/uwsonline_student_support (http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/uwsonline_student_support/) for further information.

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Multiple Choice	60 minutes	40	Y	Individual	Y
Short Answer	2000 words	60	Y	Individual	Y
Practical	60 minutes	S/U	Y	Individual	Y

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Online

Online

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=NURS7081_25-AUT_ON_2#subjects)

Spring (2025)

Online

Online

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=NURS7081_25-SPR_ON_2#subjects)