

# Patients' Charter for Tuberculosis Care

The Charter outlines the Rights and Responsibilities of People with Tuberculosis. It empowers people with the disease and their communities through this knowledge. Initiated and developed by patients from around the world, the Charter makes the relationship with health care providers a mutually beneficial one, and is endorsed by the WHO, Stop TB Partnership, national governments and civil society organizations. While the full edition of the Patients' Charter remains the document of reference\*, this short edition enables the TB community to:

## Know Your Rights and Fulfill Your Responsibilities

### PATIENTS' RIGHTS

#### You have the right to:

##### Care

- Free and equitable care for Tuberculosis (TB)
- Quality care meeting the International Standards (ISTC)
- Benefit from Community Care Programs

##### Dignity

- Be treated with respect and dignity
- Social support of family, community and national programs

##### Information

- Information about available care services
- Be informed about condition and treatment
- Know drug names, dosage and side effects
- Access to your medical records in local language
- Have peer-support and voluntary counseling

##### Choice

- A second medical opinion, with access to records
- Refuse surgery if drug treatment is at all possible
- Refuse to participate in research studies

##### Confidence

- Have privacy, culture, religious beliefs respected
- Keep your health condition confidential
- Care in facilities that practice effective infection control

##### Justice

- File a complaint about care, and to have a response
- Appeal unjust decisions to a higher authority
- Vote for accountable local, national patient representatives

##### Organization

- Join or organize peer support groups, clubs and NGOs
- Participate in policy making in TB programs

##### Security

- Job security, from diagnosis through to cure
- Food coupons or supplements if required
- Access to Quality Assured drugs and diagnostics

### PATIENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

#### You have the responsibility to:

##### Share Information

- Inform healthcare staff all about your condition
- Tell staff about your contacts with family, friends, etc.
- Inform family and friends and share your TB knowledge

##### Follow Treatment

- Follow the prescribed plan of treatment
- Tell staff of any difficulties with the treatment

##### Contribute to Community Health

- Encourage others to TB-Test if they show symptoms
- Be considerate of care-providers and other patients
- Assist family and neighbors to complete treatment

##### Show Solidarity

- Show solidarity with all other patients
- Empower yourself and your community
- Join the fight against TB in your community



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