

## POSTER 121

### HEALTH POLICIES FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS: WHAT WORKS?

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#### Abstract

**Background:** The objective of this study is to systematically review the published literature on tuberculosis and health care policies surrounding tuberculosis.

**Methods:** I searched Ovid Medline but limited my search to English language only and publication years from 1990-2010, CINAHL again limiting my search to English language only and 1990-2010, and the AAMC website for its list of Schools of Medicine in Missouri and its surrounding states. Articles included were published in scholarly journals and publications within the United States, written in English language, and most were case reviews/reports.

**Results:** Among the twenty-four articles identified in this review the author was able to place them among five different categories. The categories of existence were: regulating tuberculosis among health care workers,<sup>8, 12, 18</sup> tuberculosis management articles,<sup>2, 5, 6, 16, 17, 19</sup> tuberculosis associated cases,<sup>3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 20, 22, 24</sup> tuberculosis management in relation to dental settings,<sup>1, 7</sup> retrospective cases on tuberculosis,<sup>21, 23</sup>.

The literature expresses difficulty in updating health policies to correct an issue as well as difficulty in the adaptation of new health policies within an institution. Also, some institutions require that any policy changes be approved at the system level which serves as another time consuming and difficult loop hole to implementing policy change.

**Conclusion:** There is a strong need for a uniform health policy in every health care institution in order to maintain tuberculosis.