



Tuberculosis

Treating TB and Other Lung Infections

A History of Expertise

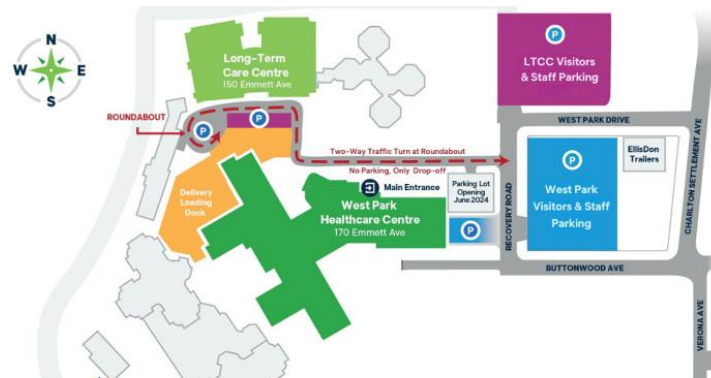
West Park's involvement in the treatment of TB began more than a century ago as the disease was a world-wide threat to life. We opened as the Toronto Free Hospital for Consumptive Poor in 1904, becoming one of the first sanitariums in Canada for the most advanced cases of the lung disease.

With the development of new TB treatments, we were applied our exemplary care to more health care issues, but our expertise in lung ailments continues.

West Park's Tuberculosis Service is internationally recognized and is Ontario's designated in-patient treatment Centre. It is a referral Centre for the most complex cases of TB in Ontario. We also provide specialized out-patient TB clinic services for Ontario residents.

You Can Help

Donations to the West Park Healthcare Centre Foundation support research and the purchase of equipment not covered by provincial funding. To add your support, contact the Foundation office at 416-243-3698 or foundation@westpark.org.



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What is Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that is spread from person to person. Symptoms may include malaise, fever, coughing and weight loss.

The disease is diagnosed through an examination, appropriate testing, a review of medical history, X-rays and bacteriologic testing of tissue or fluid from the affected areas.

Controlling infection

People with TB in the lungs can give it to others when they cough, talk, laugh, sing or sneeze as the disease is spread through the air. Patients are admitted to the TB Service for isolation, implementation of treatment and to prevent further spread of TB in the community. West Park's TB Service Unit has a state-of-the-art, negative-pressure ventilation and air-handling system. In addition, all patients, visitors and staff wear masks.



Tuberculosis treatment at West Park Healthcare Centre

With over a century of experience in treating TB, West Park's skilled interdisciplinary healthcare team work together with patients to provide exemplary care on their road to recovery

Who is Treated at West Park

Patients 16 years of age and older are admitted to West Park when their type of TB requires highly-specialized medical care. Because the disease is infectious, patients may also need to be isolated from small children and people with depressed immune systems. Response to treatment may vary, depending on the type of TB. When patients are no longer infectious or a risk to family and others, they are discharged home.

Multicultural Needs

A large proportion of TB patients are foreign born and come from countries with a high burden of TB. West Park treats patients from many different cultures and backgrounds. Translation services are available to ensure clear communication with our patients, their families and the clinical team.

TB Service Healthcare Team

The core team includes a respirologist, attending physician, nurse practitioner, nurses, a recreation therapist, clinical pharmacist, clinical service manager, and service coordinator. The consulting team members include social work, psychology, recreation therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and respiratory therapist.

Rooms

Patient's rooms are located in a specialized unit with state-of-the-art infection control technology (negative pressure). All patient rooms on the TB inpatient unit are single private rooms.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the inpatient TB unit daily. Prior to entering the unit, visitors must sign in at the nursing station (Communication Centre) and wear a mask. Visits by children 14 and under are reviewed on an individual basis. Visitor parking is available at the hospital.

Going Home

Patients are provided a treatment plan during their discharge interview. Arrangements are made for continued treatment on an out-patient basis, with regularly-scheduled follow-up appointments in the TB Clinic. Patients are also referred to the local Public Health Department for Direct Observed Therapy (DOT). The family doctor and/or referring doctor will be informed of the patient's progress. All TB medications are provided at no cost while at West Park and for the length of treatment. A prescription is given at each clinic appointment and it is filled in the hospital pharmacy near the TB Clinic.

Activities and Services

A library (under construction) and banking machine are available on the main floor outside of the TB inpatient unit. If needed, a West Park volunteer will shop once a week for personal items that friends/family cannot collect. There is also a dedicated washing machine on the unit for patients and an activity room on the unit with various activities available.

Patient Lounges and Patio

Quiet rooms on the unit can be used for visits along with our dining room. The outdoor patio (currently under construction) may also be used, weather permitting.

References

World Health Organization (WHO). (2022). Global Tuberculosis Report. <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/363752/9789240061729-eng.pdf?sequence=1>