Linking immigration status adjusters to preventive TB treatment

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BACKGROUND

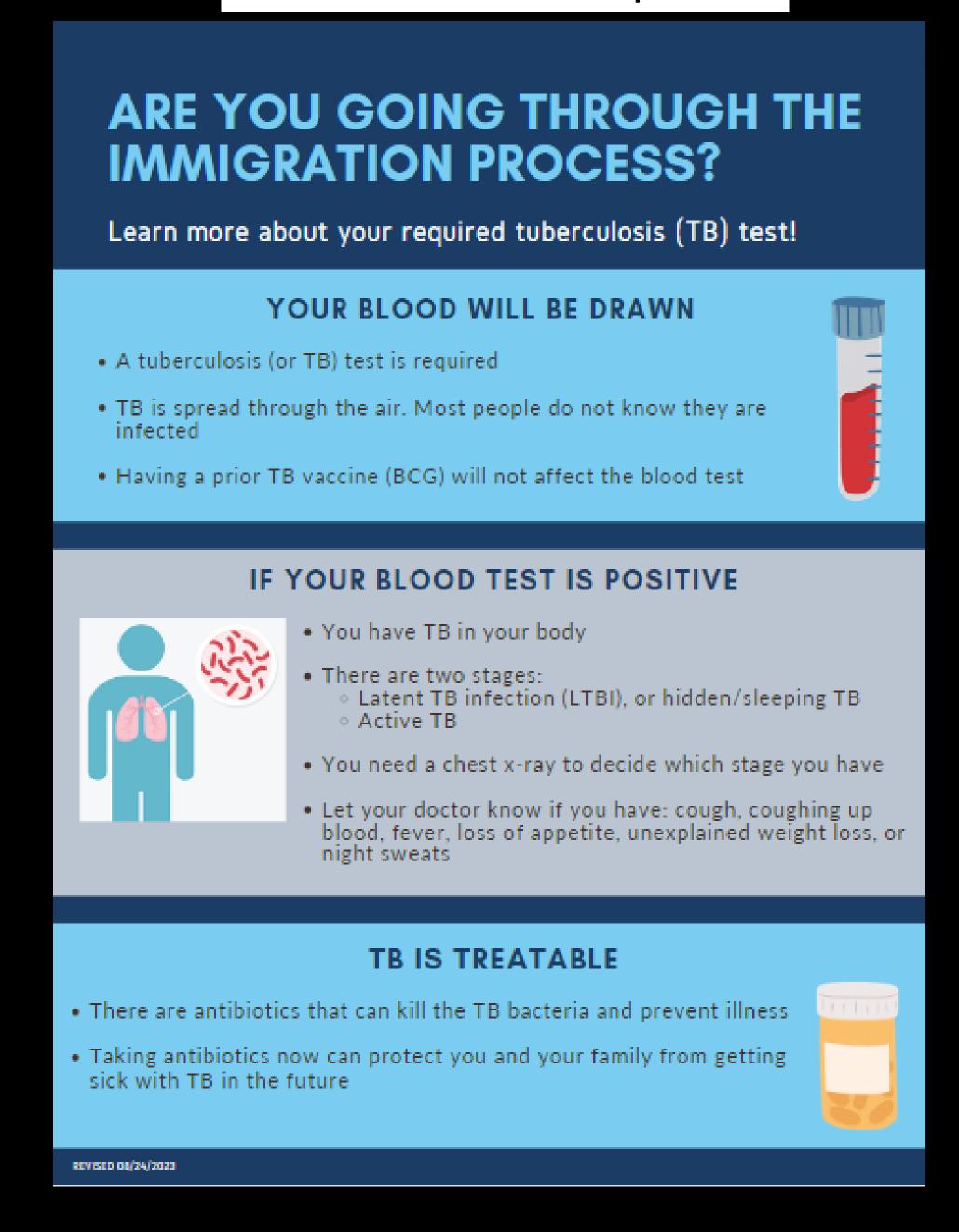
- Each year, 100,000 Californians are medically evaluated by civil surgeons for TB while adjusting their immigration status to permanent resident
- Opportunity for treatment to prevent future TB disease
- CDC-sponsored project: California Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control Branch collaborating with Orange County Health Care Agency, Pulmonary Disease Services and a local civil surgeon's practice
- Aims of this project: strengthen civil surgeons' capacity to improve LTBI surveillance and care outcomes among immigration status adjusters

METHODS

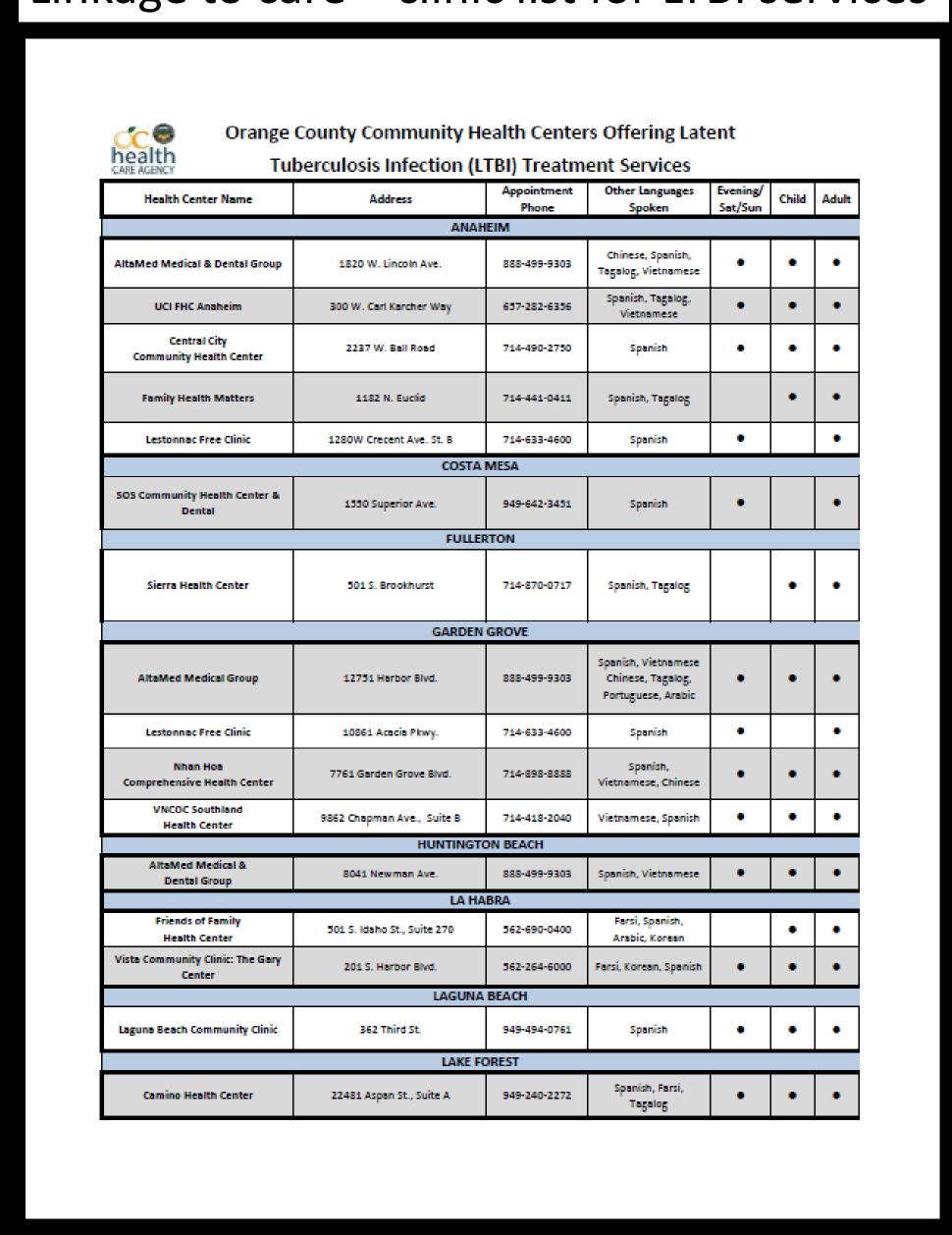
- 1. Established an advisory group of national, state, and local partners
- 2. A gap analysis was performed to identify existing gaps and specific areas of possible improvement for linking status adjusters with LTBI to care for preventative TB treatment
- 3. Interventions to address gaps in the care cascade were developed, prioritized, and implemented

New LTBI materials available for civil surgeons and status adjusters

Patient education – poster



Linkage to care – clinic list for LTBI services

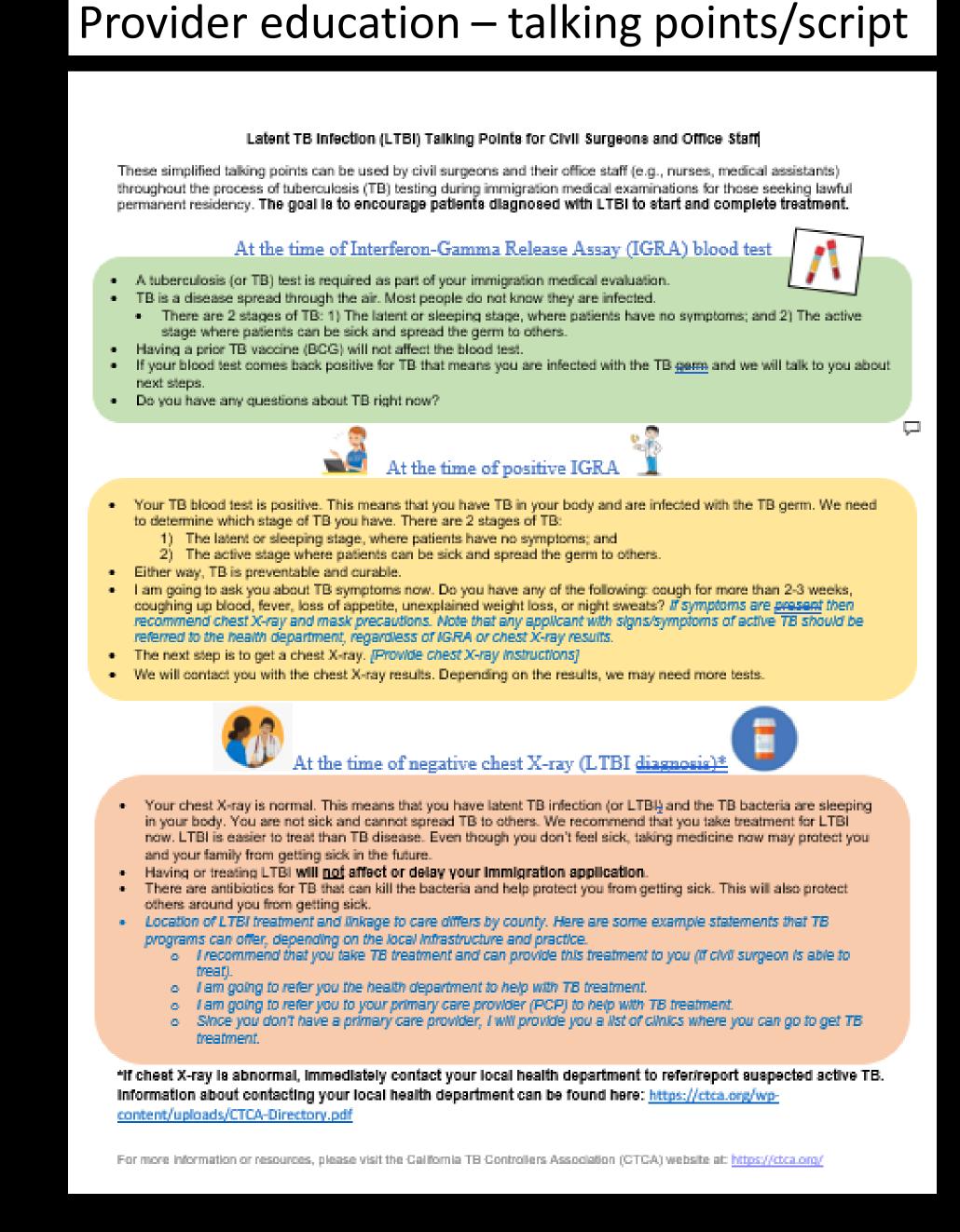


Patient education - brochure



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RESULTS

We identified three main gaps: 1) additional LTBI education needed for status adjusters, 2) absence of a concrete referral plan for status adjusters with LTBI to obtain treatment, 3) lack of treatment information collected in CalREDIE. We created and disseminated interventions to address these gaps in July 2023, including:

Patient Education

- a brochure specific to status adjusters emphasizing the importance of LTBI treatment
- a poster on immigration screening for TB, to display in clinic areas

Provider Education

• LTBI talking points for civil surgeons and office staff to use throughout status adjusters' clinic visits

Linkage to Care

- a letter sent to status adjusters who are unreachable after 3 attempts from the health department
- a list of clinics in Orange County offering LTBI treatment
- a referral form with the civil surgeon's recommendation to begin treatment

Reporting

begin entering specific referral and treatment information into CalREDIE

CONCLUSION

We identified important gaps in starting and tracking treatment for status adjusters with LTBI. Interventions are currently being implemented that seek to increase LTBI education, referrals to treatment for status adjusters with LTBI, and LTBI treatment reporting.

NEXT STEPS

- Assess intervention effectiveness during 2023-2024, and expect findings to inform statewide efforts to optimize LTBI care continuum and prevent TB disease
- Translate materials to other languages
- Make the materials more widely available as part of statewide toolkit





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