



World Health Organization treatment outcome definitions for tuberculosis: 2021 update

Nguyen Nhat Linh, Kerri Viney, Medea Gegia, Dennis Falzon, Philippe Glaziou, Katherine Floyd, Hazim Timimi, Nazir Ismail, Matteo Zignol, Tereza Kasaeva and Fuad Mirzayev

Global TB Programme, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

Corresponding author: Nguyen Nhat Linh (nguyenli@who.int)



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In 2021, WHO revised its tuberculosis treatment outcome definitions, making them uniformly applicable for different lengths of treatment for both drug-susceptible and drug-resistant disease
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Tuberculosis (TB) remains an important global health concern, even though it is largely curable with treatment that is affordable and widely accessible for diagnosed and notified TB patients. If not administered correctly, TB treatment regimens may fail to deliver a relapse-free cure, favouring continued transmission and the emergence of drug resistance. Monitoring the effectiveness of TB treatment is thus critically important in both clinical practice and surveillance, to maximise the quality of individual patient care and the effectiveness of public health action. Standardised TB treatment outcome definitions have been a feature of World Health Organization (WHO) policies and national TB surveillance systems for many years. This has allowed the monitoring of TB treatment outcomes over time at national and global levels.