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Educational questions.

"Cost of illness of tuberculosis in Germany"

1. Which statement is true: calculation of costs of illness of tuberculosis should generally include:

- Costs for diagnosis and therapy of tuberculosis borne by the respective state health insurance system.
- Costs incurred by Public Health units for execution of contact investigations.
- Costs incurred of rehabilitation borne by the pension insurance.
- Indirect costs dues to loss of productivity on the part of the general economy.
- All of the above.

2. Which of the following statements is not true with regard to calculations of indirect costs of TB disease:

- Loss of productivity cannot be calculated if there is no representative random sampling study of the number of workdays lost due to TB.
- Calculation of the indirect costs can be simplified by taking the average available sick leave period of employed people suffering from TB (ICD-10 A15-A19).
- One option to calculate the average productivity loss is to multiply sick leave days and the gross income from non-self-employed work per day

3. Which of the following statements is not true from a health economic point of view:

- Special attention has to be paid to on the development of the number of MDR-TB cases in the future.
- MDR-TB does not contribute in a higher percentage to total TB costs than their proportion of all TB cases.
- The individual costs for TB may be higher than the calculated costs according to WHO recommendations if more expensive drugs may be necessary in case of high-level drug resistance

4. Derogating from previous WHO guidelines the current update recommends an intensive phase of 8 months' duration including the parenteral agent and a total duration of treatment of at least 20 months

- True.
- False

5. Which statement is not true:

- For calculating cost of illness of TB it is sufficient to include inpatient costs (direct hospital costs).
- For calculating cost of illness of TB both inpatient and subsequent outpatient costs have to be included.
- The costs of TB of children and adults have to be weighted according to their proportions among MDR and non-MDR cases.
- The costs of TB of MDR and non-MDR cases have to be weighted in order to get the total TB costs.

6. Considering cost estimation of MDR therapy, which of the following statements is true with regard to recent WHO recommendations on MDR therapy?

- WHO has proposed a fixed regimen schedule.
- Pyrazinamide should not be added to a minimum of four second-line anti-TB drugs.
- MDR therapy should be focused to drug susceptibility of MTB strains solely.
- Fluroquinolones do not belong to the recommended second-line drugs.