

# The Patients' Charter for Tuberculosis Care

**New tools in the fight against TB:  
Social mobilization through  
patient empowerment**

Presentation by Alberto Colorado  
IUATLD-NAR 2007, Vancouver, BC



Our Voices  
Loud 'n Clear

< Powered by People with Tuberculosis, Empowering our Communities >

[www.tbvtv.org](http://www.tbvtv.org)

[www.worldcarecouncil.org](http://www.worldcarecouncil.org)

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The Patients' Charter outlines the Rights and Responsibilities of People with Tuberculosis.

It empowers people with the disease and their communities through this knowledge.



Initiated and developed by patients from  
around the world during 2005

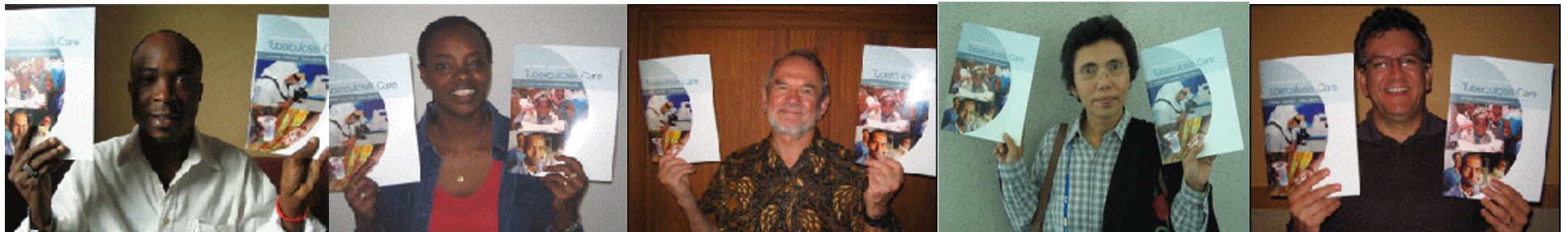
Over 700 contributions to 8 draft editions  
with inputs from communities in 63 countries  
including 19 'High Burden'

Process coordinated by TBTV.ORG served to seed  
the development of TB activists and organizations  
in their communities.

Patients' Charter for Tuberculosis Care.....

By informing patients of their rights and responsibilities, the Charter makes the relationship with health care providers a mutually beneficial one.

Patients and providers become 'partners' in the treatment process, each contributing towards a successful outcome.



The Patients' Charter for Tuberculosis Care (PCTC) was developed in tandem with the International Standards for Tuberculosis Care (ISTC) to promote a 'patient-centered' approach.

Together, they are an innovative new tool to confront the TB/HIV/MDR pandemic.

The PCTC and ISTC are key elements of the new WHO Stop TB Strategy and Global Plan.

The Charter promotes and defends the human rights of a broad-based 'TB Community'.

It bears in mind the principles on health and human rights of the United Nations, UNESCO, WHO, Council of Europe, as well as other local and national charters and conventions.

# The Patients Charter for Tuberculosis Care practices the principle of Greater Involvement of People with TB (GIPT).

This affirms that the empowerment of people with the disease is the catalyst for effective collaboration with health providers and authorities, and is essential to victory in the fight to stop TB.



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The First Draft of the 2007 Edition

## **Patients' Rights**

### **You have the Right to:**

#### **Care**

Free and equitable care for Tuberculosis.  
Quality care that meets the Standards (ISTC).  
Benefit from community care programs.

#### **Dignity**

Be treated with respect and dignity.  
Support of family, friends, and community.

#### **Information**

Information about available care services and if there's any fees or costs.  
Be informed about your condition and treatment.  
Know the name of drugs, their dosage and possible side effects.  
Access to your medical records.  
Have peer support and counseling.

**Choice**

- Second medical opinion with access to medical records.
- Refuse surgery if drug treatment is possible.
- Refuse to participate in research studies.

**Confidence**

- Have privacy, culture and religious beliefs respected.
- Keep your health condition confidential.

**Justice**

- File a complaint about care, to have a response.
- Appeal 'injust' decisions to a higher authority.

**Organization**

- Join or organize TB patient clubs and NGOs.
- Participate in policy making in TB programs.

**Security**

- Job security from diagnosis through to cure.
- Food coupons or supplements if required.

## **Patients' Responsibilities**

### **You have the Responsibility to:**

#### **Share Information**

Tell healthcare staff about your condition.  
Tell staff about your contacts with family, etc.

#### **Follow Treatment**

Follow the prescribed plan of treatment.  
Tell health care providers about any difficulties with the treatment.

#### **Contribute to Community Health**

Encourage other to get a TB-test if they show the symptoms.  
Be considerate of care providers and other patients.

#### **Show Solidarity**

Show solidarity with all other patients.  
To empower yourself through knowledge, and pass it to others.  
Join the fight against TB in your community.



The Patients' Charter, the first global 'patient-powered' standard for care, is a cooperative tool, forged from common cause, for the entire TB Community.

*"This is really a strategy co-owned by all: top-down and bottom-up converging!"*

Dr. Mario Raviglione, Director. StopTB/WHO

The adoption and implementation of the PCTC provides patients and their communities a framework to mobilize for better health services.

It creates partnerships with health providers to seek, together, the resources needed to raise the standards of care, which lowers the burden of disease on the community.

The Charter is an innovative tool for mobilization, from the bottom-up, towards a future free from TB.



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