

- Loss of appetite
- Occasional presence of blood in sputum (Haemoptysis)

In our community, old persons with all the above symptoms are generally neglected thinking that these are common symptoms of old age. But, whoever has the above symptoms should be suspected of having TB.



Haemoptysis

Vulnerable situations

- People with malnutrition
- People living in crowded areas like slums etc.
- People living in houses without proper ventilation
- People living in environmentally polluted areas
- People with HIV/AIDS
- Women and children are equally vulnerable

Generally, all the poor are vulnerable as they have the maximum chances to fall into the above categories.

Under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, the following services are available:

- Sputum of person having cough for more than three weeks is examined three times in Microscopy centres. You should know the nearest microscopy centre. You may ask the ANM where they are so that you could guide a person to these places for sputum testing.
- If sputum examination shows evidence of TB, anti-TB drugs are initiated. Duration of treatment would be as per doctor's advice ranging from six months to nine months.
- In some cases, X-ray may be necessary and if it is positive, anti-TB drugs are given.



three samples of Sputum



Sputum Examination



X-Ray

Anti TB drugs are available at all district TB centres, TB clinics, government hospitals, district hospitals,