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| **Task** | **Description** |
| Check for side effects | At each visit, before the drugs are given, the health care worker should ask if the patient is having any adverse side effects. Patients being treated for TB should be educated about symptoms indicating adverse reactions to the drugs they are taking, whether minor or serious. If the patient has symptoms of serious adverse reactions, a new drug supply should not be given; the patient should stop taking medication immediately (see Module 4, Treatment of Tuberculosis Infection and Disease, for more information on adverse reactions to TB medication). The supervisor should be told that the drugs were not given, and the prescribing clinician should be notified about the adverse reaction. The health care worker should arrange for the patient to see the clinician as soon as possible. |
| Verify the medication | Each time DOT is delivered, the health care worker should verify that the right drugs are delivered to the right patient, and that he or she has the correct amount of medication. If this cannot be confirmed, the drugs should not be given to the patient. The supervisor should be asked for clarification. |
| Watch the patient take the pills | Medication should not be left for the patient to take on his or her own unless self-administered therapy has been prescribed for non-DOT days, such as weekends. The health care worker or the patient should get a glass of water or other beverage before the patient is given the pills. The health care worker should watch the patient continuously from the time each pill is given to the time he or she swallows it. |
| Document the visit | The health care worker should document each visit with the patient and indicate whether or not the medication was given. If not given, the reason and follow-up plans should be included. It is important to correct any interruption in treatment as soon as possible. Notify your TB Coordinator/Nurse Case Manager or the KY TB Program. |

Often, DOT programs also include a number of other case management functions, such as

* Helping patients keep appointments
* Providing effective education to patients and key individuals in the patient's social environment
* Offering incentives to encourage adherence
* Providing social services to ensure patient's needs are being addressed so adherence to therapy can become a priority

Health care workers should watch for tricks or techniques some patients may use to avoid swallowing medication, such as hiding pills in the mouth and spitting them out later, hiding medicine in clothing, or vomiting the pills after leaving the clinic. If it is necessary to make sure that the patient swallows the pills, the health care worker may have to check the patient's mouth, or ask the patient to wait for a half hour before leaving the clinic so the medication can dissolve in the patient's stomach.

Resource: CDC Tuberculosis Self Study Module 9: Patient Adherence to Tuberculosis Treatment

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/ssmodules/default.htm>