

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to inform you all that the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) an NGO, in collaboration with the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), Govt. of India is implementing an innovative Paediatric project in 10 major cities of India, including Indore city. Under this project, GeneXpert (CB-NAAT) testing for all types of pulmonary and extrapulmonary specimens of presumptive paediatric TB/DR TB patients (less than 15 yrs) is being offered **free of cost**.

The efficacy of CB NAAT as a diagnostic tool for Tuberculosis as well as Rifampicin Resistance is now well established. The RNTCP, recommends this as the investigation of choice for diagnosing paediatric TB.

The project interventions include:

1. Gene Xpert testing of pulmonary as well as extra pulmonary samples from children with symptoms suggestive of TB.
2. AFB Smear Microscopy (in addition to Gene Xpert testing).
3. Repeat testing with all types of specimen samples (pulmonary and extrapulmonary), if requested by the referring physician or Institution.
4. Our project provides test reports via SMS as well as email (PDF) within 24 hours to the referring providers.
5. The transportation cost is reimbursed at a standard rate of Rs. 50/ patient to the person who carries the sample to the testing Laboratory. This person can be Parents/Relatives/ Volunteer/Health workers etc. This reimbursement is done immediately on receipt of specimen at the lab.
6. The samples tested under this project include all types of pediatric specimens such as **Sputum/IS, Gastric Asp./Lavage, CSF, Pleural Fluid, BAL, Pus, Lymph Node/ FNAC, Ascetic Fluid**, etc. However, as recommended by the equipment manufacturer as well as WHO, we don't test Urine, Blood and Stool samples on the GeneXpert.

The address of the Laboratory offering these services under the project is as under:

Chacha Nehru Hospital, First Floor Room No 105
CRP Line Behind M. Y. Hospital Indore -452 001

All you need to do to avail this facility is collect a specimen from the child with symptoms of TB and send it to the laboratory. If required, we can provide you with collection tubes, free of cost. Project caters to all the public and private sector providers. After the reports are dispatched, subsequent patient management is solely at the discretion of the referring physician or institution. However, if requested, we can also facilitate / arrange free of cost treatment for the patient under the RNTCP.

We look forwards to your active participation and support for this project. Please feel free to contact our local staff on the phone numbers provided below for any further clarifications or assistance:

Name	Designation	Phone	Email
Ms. Kavita Purohit	Lab Coordinator	8462985939	lcindore1@gmail.com
Mr. Aqueel Usmani	D.E.O.	7828593514	indoredeo@gmail.com

Good Operating Procedures for specimen collection

- Control the sample volume (1-4ml)
- Never dilute sample as TB bacilli concentration should already be low
- Samples to be sent in sterile falcon tubes (can be provided by project staff)
- All samples should be transported immediately however in case this is not possible then samples can be refrigerated at 2 to 8 degrees. Do not freeze the sample in any circumstance
- Do not add formalin to tissue samples; only add normal saline