INFC 215 Infection Prevention and Control Reflection #2 – forms part of quiz #2 (15%)

Reflection: Transmission of Tuberculosis

Reflections are designed to encourage you to think critically about your experiences, apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, and develop your professional identity as a medical imaging technologist.

Topic: Reflecting on Transmission of Tuberculosis

1. How does understanding the airborne transmission of tuberculosis (TB) influence our approach to patient care and personal protection in medical settings?

2. What are the primary symptoms of TB, and how might these affect a patient's ability to undergo medical imaging procedures?

   Understanding that tuberculosis is transmitted through the air makes healthcare workers approach patient care and personal protection a lot differently from standard protocol. TB bacteria can remain suspended in the air through coughs, sneezes, speaking, or breathing. In hospitals, patients with suspected or confirmed TB should be identified early so that appropriate airborne precautions can be followed. Ways to deal with this situation include placing the patient in an airborne isolation room, limiting unnecessary contact, and ensuring that staff wear a properly fitting N95 mask. We take extra care of our surroundings when approaching TB, since tuberculosis is highly contagious. All types of contamination should be handled with care, but tuberculosis should be handled with extra care since it's very easy to spread and infect others. These precautions help protect technologists, other patients, and healthcare workers from exposure. The primary symptoms of active TB include a persistent cough lasting several weeks, chest pain, coughing up blood or sputum, fever, night sweats, fatigue, loss of appetite, and unexplained weight loss. These symptoms make it difficult for a patient to complete certain medical imaging procedures; coughing, chest discomfort, and weakness can prevent the patient from holding their breath for a chest X-ray. This can make a patient tired and fatigued, requiring the technologist to modify the procedure or perform the image seated or supine. Understanding TB transmission and symptoms allows technologists to plan examinations safely while still providing compassionate and effective patient care.

Word count: 350-400 words

Reflective Writing Rubric

Criteria	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points
Critical Reflection	Basic understanding of topic	Some reflection, with basic analysis	Deep reflection with thoughtful analysis

Application to Practice	Limited connection to medical imaging practice	Clear connections to medical imaging practice	Insightful application to medical imaging practice
Writing Quality	Basic writing with some clarity issues	Clear writing with minor errors	Well-written, clear, and concise