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Infection Prevention and Control Reflection #2.

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Tuberculosis is a contagious infectious disease caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis, that typically targets lungs but can affect other organs. It is transmitted by airborne droplets from coughing, sneezing and or speaking. These particles then can stay suspended in the air for extended periods. Understanding how easily tuberculosis is transferred from one another is important regarding patient care. It allows healthcare workers to wear the correct PPE for the exams/procedures. Full PPE is to be worn with an N95 that has been fitted to the health care worker. Knowing the patient is infectious, patient care starts in the ward, making sure the patient is in an isolation room. This ensures the patient is getting the correct care. In the medical imaging department they would need to select a room for the patient to have the exam in, that would be able to be shut down for a specific amount of time. This allows the air particles with tuberculosis in them to settle and then be cleaned.

Symptoms of tuberculosis include; cough, coughing up blood, chest pain, fever, weight loss, fatigue and loss of appetite. Some of these symptoms can affect the possible exams needed to be done for the patient. In the medical imaging department the patient may not be able to stand up due to fatigue, making the technologist have to adapt to the patient. Coughing and sneezing may also make the exam challenging as there can not be any motion in the x-rays. It is important for technologists to have a plan of adaptation before the patient comes for an exam. This allows for smooth flow throughout the exam and maintains patient comfort. If possible it is best to work with another technologist to achieve the best outcome.