OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1) define latent TB infection and explain why effective diagnosis and treatment of LTBI is essential to the elimination of TB disease in the US

2) identify at least 3 key populations at risk for tuberculosis infection based on current epidemiology data to inform and prioritize populations for testing and treatment

3) identify at least 3 groups who are at risk for tuberculosis and should undergo screening to prevent tuberculosis disease and transmission

4) describe the principal causes of indeterminate results for the FDA approved IGRA tests and identify common patterns of discordance to more accurately analyze test results

5) describe the difficulties of using IGRA tests to diagnose LTBI in low-risk populations and use this information to inform and optimize clinical decision-making with these patients

6) explain why TST and IGRA tests cannot rule-out active tuberculosis and use this information to inform diagnostic decision

7) explain the biological principle by which IGRA tests are able to distinguish between true LTBI and the previous receipt of BCG vaccine—an issue of importance in screening many non US-born persons—to better serve their foreign-born patients

8) describe the current recommended treatment options for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) and the advantages versus disadvantages, to inform appropriate use in clinical practice

9) identify adverse side effects of LTBI treatment regimens and discuss monitoring and treatment of these side effects

10) evaluate and counsel a patient on the likelihood of activation of latent TB infection to encourage successful treatment completion

11) explain what latent TB infection means in simple terms to give patients who test positive for LTBI and understanding of what is needed for optimal treatment outcomes

12) address common patient concerns that may prevent them from completing an adequate course of treatment for LTBI

13) apply new knowledge on tuberculosis risk assessment, diagnostic tools, and treatment options to case scenarios to improve clinical reasoning skills for proper care and management of LTBIs