

**EXPERIENCES OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR  
TREATMENT AT HEALTH SERVICES OF SIBASA LOCAL AREA, VHEMBE  
DISTRICT OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

By

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**Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements**

**For the degree of**

**MAGISTER CURATIONIS**

**In the school of**

**HEALTH SCIENCES**

**At the**

**UNIVERSITY OF VENDA**

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**Library Item : 20141312**



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**AUGUST 2014**

## ABSTRACT

Tuberculosis (TB) is a global health concern, with an estimated 8 to 9 million new cases worldwide in 2004 and two million deaths each year. It remains a global health threat despite the availability of treatment for over 50 years. The study aims to explore the experiences of Tuberculosis patients related to TB treatment at health services of Sibasa Local Area, Vhembe District in Limpopo Province, South Africa. A contextual, explorative, and descriptive research design, using qualitative methodology was adopted. The population for the study comprised all TB patients on TB treatment from their 3<sup>rd</sup> month of treatment. A purposive sampling method was used to select five clinics based on availability of participants and to select eleven participants for the study. A semi-structured individual interviews guide was used to explore the experiences of Tuberculosis patients in relation to their treatment. Tesch's eight steps of qualitative data analysis were used. Measures to ensure trustworthiness and ethical issues were followed. The results of the study revealed that TB patients experienced challenges of lack of knowledge of TB and TB treatments. They lacked social and professional support when taking TB treatment and lacked food and money for transport. They also experienced bad attitudes of health care providers. Recommendations to address the finding of the study were aligned to the MDG guidelines regarding the experiences of TB patients whilst on treatment.

## KEY TERMS

*Experience, Tuberculosis, patient, treatment*