from August 1st, 2016 to January 31st, 2017, the 6 months following the quality assurance intervention were included. Sputum samples were processed at the Texas Department of State and Health Services (DSSH) Laboratory.

**Results.** A total of 1,853 sputum samples were processed; 1,288 from 2014 and 565 following the intervention. NTM decreased from 56 (4.3%) to 7 (1.2%) after the quality assurance intervention was instituted for an NTM decrease of 75.0%. M. gordonae decreased by 78.6%. No patients had evidence of NTM disease.

**Conclusion.** A breach in sputum collection protocols at TCID accounted for the increase in NTM isolation in 2014, half of which were M. gordonae. The reeducacion of respiratory therapy and education, and initiation of education and sputum collection resulted in a significant reduction in the overall NTM rate. M. gordonae was isolated only three times following the intervention. At TCID, a location where tap water and bottled water contains NTM, drinking these prior to sputum collection possibly contributed to the cluster for NTM, especially M. gordonae. We recommend rinsing the mouth with sterile saline or water prior to sputum collection to decrease isolation of rarely pathogenic NTM.

**Disclosures.** All authors: No reported disclosures.