



Tuberculosis Program

P.O. Box 999
County, State 88888

January 1, 2000

John Doe
Route 1 Box 000
City, State 88888

Dear Mr. Doe,

You have been found to have infectious tuberculosis (TB) of the lungs. If you do not take the medicine prescribed for you to treat this disease, you present a serious public health problem. You can spread germs to other people and may make them sick.

The health department nurses have attempted to help you take your medicine, but you have not cooperated with them. The law in this state says you can be taken to court and the judge will order you to take your medicine. If you still do not cooperate and take your TB medicine, the judge will order you to be taken to the state hospital where you will remain confined until you have completed your treatment for tuberculosis.

It is not our desire to have you confined to the state hospital. However, if you do not take your medicine, we have no choice. We will use the public health laws to protect other people from getting sick with TB.

The health department nurse will contact you next week. We suggest that you take your medicine as has been prescribed by the doctor. If you do not do this, the health department will start legal action immediately.

If you would like to talk with me about your disease and the reasons why you must take your medicine, please call me at (123-4567).

Sincerely,

Joe Smith, M.D.
District Medical Director

Figure 9.9 A sample letter (written at a low reading level) given to patients who demonstrate nonadherent behavior, and who may be candidates for legal action.