Tuberculin Skin Testing Procedure

Date Implemented: 4/30/11

Date(s) Updated: 9/5/13, 4/1/14

Regulation(s) supporting the need for this policy: 6 CCR 1011-1 Chap 08 12.2

Who needs a Tuberculin Skin Test

All Group Home and PCA employees shall receive the Tuberculin Skin Test at hire (two-step) and annually (one-step if on time, or two-step if past due). Family Caregivers shall not be required to undergo the Tuberculin Skin Test, even if they are employed by Imagine! Innovations.

Administration of a Two-Step Tuberculin Skin Testing

The two-step tuberculin skin testing more accurately identifies individuals who are infected with tuberculosis at the initial evaluation than the administration of a single tuberculin skin test. Imagine! Innovations uses this two-step procedure for new employees specifically in Group Homes and staffed sites, or for employees whose annual testing date has expired.

Protocol:

1. A tuberculin skin test is administered by the Mantoux technique, that is, an intradermal injection of purified protein derivative (PPD).
2. Multiple puncture tests such as the Tine test should not be used, even in infants and children.
3. Mantoux test injection:
   - Infection control procedures should be followed for all injections, including the use of gloves and a sharps container.
   - 0.1 ml of PPD tuberculin containing 5 TU should be injected intradermally into the dorsal or volar surface of the forearm.
   - The injection should be made with a disposable needle and syringe just under the surface of the skin with the needle bevel facing upward to produce a discrete, pale elevation of the skin (a wheal) six (6) mm to ten (10) mm in diameter.
4. Have employee come back the following week to repeat this (for new employees or employees with an expired testing date).

Principles Of Reading A Tuberculin Skin Test

Protocol:

1. The tuberculin skin test should be read 48 to 72 hours after the injection.
   - However, if the individual fails to show up for the scheduled reading, positive reactions may still be measurable up to one (1) week after testing.
   - If the results appear negative and more than three (3) days have passed, the test must be repeated. It can be repeated immediately, or after one (1) week if two-step testing is required.
2. The tuberculin skin test site is measured crosswise to the axis of the forearm.
3. Only the induration should be measured. A tuberculin skin test with erythema but no induration is non-reactive.
4. A tuberculin skin test result is recorded in millimeters (mm), not positive or negative. A tuberculin skin test with no induration is recorded as 00 mm.

Criteria For A Positive Tuberculin Skin Test

Protocol:
1. >=5 mm induration for an individual who:
   - is HIV-seropositive or at high risk for HIV infection;
   OR
   - is a contact to a case of active TB;
   OR
   - has evidence of healed, fibrotic lesions on a chest x-ray.
2. >=10 mm induration for all others.
3. >=12 mm induration for individuals who have received the BCG vaccine.

Evaluation of Employees For Two-Step Tuberculin Skin Testing

Protocol:
1. When the initial tuberculin skin test is negative:
   - it should be repeated within one (1) to three (3) weeks using the same dose and strength of tuberculin.
   - If the second test is negative, the individual is classified as uninfected (TB Class 0 or TB Class I).
   - If the second test is positive, a chest x-ray should be obtained.
     - If the chest x-ray is abnormal, there should be an evaluation for active TB, or another pulmonary disorder by their primary care physician.
     - If the chest x-ray is normal, recommendation for follow up with their primary care physician for possible preventive treatment will be given.
2. When the initial tuberculin skin test is positive, a chest x-ray should be obtained. There is no need for a second tuberculin skin test.
   - If the chest x-ray is abnormal, there should be an evaluation for active TB, or another pulmonary disorder by their primary care physician.
   - If the chest x-ray is normal, recommendation for follow up with their primary care physician for possible preventive treatment will be given.
3. An individual who can provide documentation of a PPD (purified protein derivative) skin test by the Mantoux technique within the preceding year should have an initial skin test performed, and should be classified on the basis of that result. There is no need for a second test because the earlier test is, in effect, the first of a two-step test.
4. Subsequent evaluations for tuberculosis will occur annually after the initial screen.

Attachments
1) The Tuberculosis Screening Consent and Documentation Form for those employees required to receive a tuberculin skin test.
2) The Symptom Questionnaire used for employees who have known positive results to the skin tests.