# Tuberculosis Screening – Administration and Interpretation of Tuberculin Skin Tests

## Highlights

The facility will administer and interpret tuberculin skin tests (TST) in accordance with recognized guidelines and pertinent regulations.

## Policy Statement

### Policy Interpretation and Implementation

1. Only qualified healthcare practitioners will administer and interpret the TST for employees and/or residents.

2. After obtaining a physician’s order, a qualified nurse or a healthcare practitioner will inject 0.1ml (5 tuberculin units) of purified protein derivative (PPD) intradermally on the forearm.

3. Individuals with < 10 mm of induration, unless otherwise indicated, will receive a booster of 0.1ml (5 tuberculin units) of PPD one to two weeks after the initial TST.

4. A qualified nurse or healthcare practitioner will interpret the TST forty-eight (48) to seventy-two (72) hours after administration.

5. The facility will not accept an interpretation of the TST by an employee or resident, but will accept an interpretation by a private physician within the 48 to 72 hour timeframe.

6. A positive reaction will be considered to be an area of induration (palpable hardness) around the injection site. Redness or erythema should not be measured.

7. Interpretation of a positive TST is based on risk group:

   a. **High risk group.** >5 mm induration is classified as positive in:
      1. HIV-positive persons;
      2. Recent contacts of an active tuberculosis (TB) case;
      3. Individuals with fibrotic changes on chest X-ray consistent with previous active TB;
      4. Individuals with organ transplants; and
      5. Other immunosuppressed individuals.

   b. **Intermediate risk group.** >10 mm induration is classified as positive in:
      1. Injectable drug users;
      2. Employees and residents of high-risk congregate settings;
      3. Mycobacteriology laboratory personnel; and Persons with clinical conditions that place them at high risk.

   c. **Low risk group.** >15 mm induration is classified as positive in:
      1. Persons with known risk factors for TB.

## References

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