

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT/TITLE:	Tuberculin Skin Testing and Reporting
SCOPE:	Registered Nurse
CONTACT PERSON & DIVISION:	Director of Nursing
ORIGINAL DATE ADOPTED:	5/17 Medical Director, 1/18/18 BOH
LATEST EFFECTIVE DATE:	5/17, 7/17, 1/18/18
REVIEW/REVISION DATE(S):	5-4-17; 5-19-17; 7/14/17; 6/6/19; 02/29/2024
REVIEW FREQUENCY:	Annually or until rescinded
TOTAL # OF PAGES:	4
MEDICAL DIRECTOR APPROVAL DATE:	5/19/17, 7/14/17, 6/7/18
BOH APPROVAL DATE:	1/18/18

PURPOSE

1. To detect infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis
2. To report directly to the Crawford County Health District, who is the designated entity for follow-up.

POLICY

Galion Health Department will provide Tuberculin skin testing report positive results to Crawford County Public Health in a timely manner.

PROCEDURES & STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SUPPLIES:

TB Screening form, a vial of tuberculin, a single-dose disposable tuberculin syringe, a ruler with millimeter (mm) measurements, 2x2 gauze pads or cotton balls, alcohol swabs, a puncture resistant sharps disposal container, record-keeping forms for the patient and provider, and a pen.

ADMINISTRATION:

***Prior to administration review client screening form to verify the client does not have any contraindications to the Tuberculin Skin Test. Have the client fill out the TB Screening form prior to administering the Tuberculin Skin Test.**

- Explain the following to the client or guardian:
 - Why the skin test is needed
 - Method of administration
 - Recommended care of the site after administration
 - Don't Scratch.
 - Normal use and washing
 - Do not cover with any type of bandage
 - Client needs to return to have the test read in 48-72 hours
 - Significance of positive reaction
- Choose a site free of lesions, excess hair, and veins. The site for injection is the volar aspect of the forearm 2 to 4 inches below the elbow joint.
- Clean the rubber stopper of Tuberculin vial with alcohol swab and allow to dry. Inject 0.1 ml of air into vial and remove 0.1 ml of tuberculin using a ¼ to ½ inch 27-gauge needle with a short bevel.

- Clean injection site with an alcohol swab. Allow area to air dry completely before the injection.
- Testing material - quality and storage
 - The testing material vial should be kept refrigerated.
 - Upon opening new multi-dose vial, date to “discard” in 30 days from date vial was opened.
 - Tally all doses used on multi-dose Tubersol box.
 - Tuberculin should never be transferred from one container to another.
 - Test doses should be removed from the vial aseptically.
 - Skin tests should be administered immediately after the syringe is filled.
- Intradermally inject all the tuberculin.
- A discrete, pale, elevation of the skin - a wheal, 6-10 mm in duration should be produced when the correct amount is injected intradermally.
- If a wheal of 6-10 mm is not produced, another test should be done immediately at a site no less than 2 inches from the original site.
- Use a cotton ball to dab the area lightly and to wipe off any drops of blood. Do not apply pressure or use a bandage on the test site. Instruct patient to avoid scratching the test site.
- Document:
 - Name and signature of person administering test
 - Date and time test administered
 - Location of test (e.g., right forearm, left forearm, alternate site)
 - Tuberculin manufacturer, lot number and expiration date
- It is recommended to provide a written reminder to patient to return for reading in 48 to 72 hours.

READING:

- Confirm that Tuberculin was administered within 48 to 72 hours prior to reading.
 - If < 48 hours, patient must return after 48 hours and before 72 hours.
 - If patient returns up to 7 days after the test was administered and the size of induration meets the criteria for a positive result, the result can be accepted. If reading the Tuberculin test after 72 hours and there is no induration, or the size of the induration does not meet the criteria for a positive result, the test must be repeated.
 - If the skin test is not being read by the GCHD indicate on the form that the site will not be read by the Galion City Health Department and have the client initial. Instruct the client to fax the completed form to the GCHD.
- The basis of reading is the presence or absence of induration.
 - Determined by inspection and palpation.
 - Use a millimeter ruler to measure the diameter of induration perpendicular to the long axis of the arm.
 - Erythema without induration is not considered evidence of tuberculosis infection.

Positive Tuberculin test results

- An induration of 5 or more millimeters is considered positive in:
 - HIV-infected persons
 - A recent contact of a person with TB disease
 - Persons with fibrotic changes on the chest radiograph consistent with prior TB
 - Patients with organ transplants
 - Persons who are immunosuppressed for the other reasons (e.g., taking the equivalent of <15 mg/day of prednisone for 1 month or longer, taking TNF-a antagonist)
- An induration of 10 or more millimeters is considered positive in
 - Recent immigrants (<5 years) from high prevalence countries
 - Injection drug users
 - Residents and employees of high-risk congregate settings
 - Mycobacteriology laboratory personnel
 - Persons with clinical conditions that place them at high risk

- Children <4 years of age
- Infants, children, and adolescents exposed to adults in high-risk categories
 - An Induration of 15 or more millimeters is considered positive in any person, including persons with no known risk factors for TB. However, targeted skin testing programs should only be conducted among high risk groups.
- Patient will be referred to their health care provider.
- Patients with insurance but no health care provider contact GCHD Medical Director or to Physician Referral Line: 419-468-0961
- Patient without a health care provider or insurance contact Crawford County General Health District for patient assistance via county commissioners.
- Positive chest x-rays or sputum for TB will be reported to the Crawford County Health District who is the reporting entity and reports to the state.
- Document:
 - Name and signature of person reading test
 - Date and time test read
 - Exact number of mm of induration (if no induration, document "0" mm)
 - Interpretation of reading (i.e., positive or negative, based on individual's risk factors)
- Reporting:
 - Have client sign disclosure form
 - Contact Crawford County Health Department to report positive TST
 - Phone: 419-562-5871
 - Fax: 419--562-2040
 - Send a fax containing the following information:
 - Client information:
 - Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Address
 - Health Care Provider
 - Insurance
 - All documentation as listed above

Caution: Persons with symptoms of active TB disease or who are HIV infected or severely immunocompromised may have a false negative Tuberculin test.

Two-Step Tuberculin Test:

If the first test is negative, give a second 0.1 mL of Tuberculin (Tubersol® or Aplisol®) ID 7 – 21 days after the first test was read. Have patient return in 48 to 72 hours to be read.

Follow-up of Patients with a Newly-Positive Tuberculin Test: Persons with a newly identified positive test should be referred to a provider for a physical examination and chest x-ray to rule out active TB disease within 14 days.

CITATIONS

None

CONTRIBUTORS

The following staff contributed to the authorship of this document:

1. Emily Miller RN, BSN
2. Brandi Riddlebaugh, RN, DON

APPENDICES

TB Screening Form (Q>Nursing>Nursing Forms)

REFERENCE FORMS

"Fact Sheets." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020, November 2.

Sample Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST) Protocol. (n.d.). Retrieved from
<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/testing/skintesting.htm>.

SIGNATURES

Andrea Barnes, REHS *Date*
Health Commissioner, Galion City Health Department

Dr. Nancy Crum *Date*
Medical Director, Galion City Health Department