Date: September 27, 2016 Administrative Circular: 2016:16

Attn: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators,
Holders of British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC);
Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Manual

Re: Revisions to the BCCDC CD Manual – Chapter 4: Tuberculosis (TB):
*Tuberculosis Screening Decision Support Tool and Registered Nurses Competencies for TB Screening*

Please note the following changes to the *Tuberculosis Screening Decision Support Tool (TB Screening DST)* – Discard and replace the entire DST.

**REVISIONS OVERVIEW**

Revisions align with the 2015 BCCDC TB Manual.

1) **Format**

   Increased use of tables, flow charts and integrated “practitioner alert” text boxes for emphasis on implications for practice

2) **Introduction:** The following is included:
   - Health inequities in relation to TB disease
   - Major screening groups are highlighted
   - TB Screening Form
   - Definition of TB screening

3) **Definitions:** Definitions align with those in the 2015 BCCDC TB Manual

   Removed:
   - Consultation
   - Referral
   - TB Screening Form
Added:
• IGRA
• Immune compromised
• Immunologically vulnerable
• Indigenous
• Nonrespiratory TB disease
• Respiratory TB disease
• TST
• TST conversion
• Window Exposure Prophylaxis

4) **TB Assessment:** Content reorganized to align with the BCCDC TB Skin Testing (TST) course and Quick Reference Guide:

- **TB Health History:** TB History, Risk Factors and Symptoms
  - Risk Assessment: Persons who inject drugs (PWID) and attendants of residential school are included within the Risk Factor table.

- **Physical Assessment**

- **Screening tests:** Regarding TST and IGRA
  - Incorporation of TST cut-points table, providing more information on when a TST is positive.
  - New screening table for those presenting with prior IGRA test results.

- **Diagnostic tests:** Regarding sputum collection and diagnostic imaging

5) **HIV testing:** Offer or recommend HIV testing for people presenting for TB screening. This aligns with the Provincial Medical Health Officer’s [HIV Testing Guidelines for the Province of British Columbia](#) and the BCCDC CD Manual: Chapter 5 – Sexually Transmitted Infections – Section 2: [Guidelines for Testing Follow up, and Prevention of HIV](#)

6) **TB Screening Guidelines:** This section is divided into different screening programs:
- Routine
- Contact
- HIV infected people: aligns with the BC CfE HIV/AIDS Primary Care Guidelines
- Immigration
- Symptomatic
• Travellers
• Indigenous people, living on-reserve: annual and enhanced screening guidelines for indigenous people living on-reserve have been added for use by Community Health Nurses employed by FNHA working

7) **Client Education and References:** Updated.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact:
Stephanie Gin, CPS Nurse Educator: 604-707-5628 or Stephanie.gin@bccdc.ca
Cheryl Prescott, CPS Senior Practice Leader: 604-707-5651 or Cheryl.Prescott@bccdc.ca
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A continued nursing education (CNE) webinar to review the changes is slated for October 26, 2016. The webinar is hosted by PHSA Webcasting Services: Continued Nursing Education and is recorded for viewing at a later date.
Presentation details include:

**Title:** TB Screening DST: 2016 Revisions
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2016
**Time:** 12:45 PM PDT
**Duration:** 1 hour
**Link:** [http://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/48bbaa5bcc28450dbcb0a150df05698c1d](http://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/48bbaa5bcc28450dbcb0a150df05698c1d)

Sincerely,

Dr. Victoria Cook MD, FRCPC
Medical Lead, Provincial TB Services
BC Centre for Disease Control

cc: Dr. Mark Tyndall
    Executive Medical Director
    BC Centre for Disease Control
pc: Ministry of Health

Dr. Perry Kendall          Dr. Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer  Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Bob Fisk              Craig Thompson
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