



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Clinical Prevention Services
Provincial TB Services
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Date: November 27, 2017 **Administrative Circular: 2017:18**

Attn: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: **Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –
Chapter 4: Tuberculosis (TB) – Section 4: Tuberculosis Screening
Appendices A, G & H**

Revisions to the TB Screening Decision Support Tool (DST)

**Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Manual
- Chapter 4 Tuberculosis, Section 4, Appendices A, G and H:**

- 2015 Section 4 Screening and Testing – Discard and replace entire section.
- 2015 Appendix A – Discard and replace entire section.
- 2015 Appendix G – Discard.
- 2015 Appendix H – Discard and replace entire section with newly titled Appendix G.

Please note the following changes to the TB Screening DST:

- 2016 TB Screening DST – Discard and replace entire DST.

Overview of Changes – CDC Manual:

Revisions align with CD Policy approved briefing notes *Screening of Incoming Residents for Longterm Care* (October 2015) and *Healthworker Screening for Tuberculosis* (October 2016), and reflect minor updates based upon internal and external stakeholder feedback.

1. Indications for TB Screening:

- In consultation with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), replaced “current or historical residence in a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit communities” with “residence in regions with a high incidence of active TB disease” to reflect local epidemiology.
- Added “persons who inject drugs (PWID) and/or crack/cocaine use” to align with the TB DST.
- Added “chronic kidney disease on dialysis or end-stage” as an example of people at increased risk for development of active TB.

2. TB Screening Guidelines:

- Table 4-2: *Routine TB screening guidelines for health care workers, employees, volunteers, and students* streamlined based on the 2016 approved CD Policy briefing note.

- Table 4-3: *TB screening guidelines for adult clients based on medical risk factors and congregate settings* screening timeframes clarified for immune compromised clients, detox and treatment programs and adult residential care; link to the BC Renal TB Screening guidelines provided. Relocated TST contraindications to Table 4-8: *TB screening recommendations for clients where TST contraindicated and/or prior history of IGRA testing*.
- Removed old Table 4-4: *BC TB screening guidelines for children other than travelers and contacts* as this group is generally not routinely screened.

3. Tuberculin Skin Test (TST):

- Added content on who qualifies for publicly funded TST.
- Added content on when to avoid repeating a TST to align with TB DST.
- Added content regarding precautions to consider when administering a TST.

4. TST results

- Table 4-7: *TST reaction cut-points* updated to align with the TB DST.

5. Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)

- Added content regarding ordering and interpreting IGRA results.
- Added Table 4-8: *TB screening recommendations for clients where TST contraindicated and/or prior history of IGRA testing* to align with the TB DST.

6. Chest X-Ray

- Updated content to clarify indications for when to send clients for chest x-rays.
- Clarified details on the use of pre-existing chest x-rays in Table 4-9: *Timeframes for Use of Pre-Existing Chest X-Rays and when to order new CXR's*.

7. Testing of Sputum

- Added Table 4-10: *Mycobacteriology Lab Results Timelines* to support development of client's TB care plan.
- Updated Figure 4-3: *Flowchart for testing of specimens for TB bacteria* to reflect drug susceptibility testing of streptomycin no longer done at BCCDC.

8. Management of Symptomatic Clients

- Included "offer a HIV Test" within the clinical assessment section to align with the Ministry of Health's HIV Testing Guidelines for the Province of BC.

9. Appendix A: Tuberculin Skin Test Procedure

- Revised to include information on voluntary reporting of adverse events following receipt of a TST to the Canadian Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Program at Health Canada.

10. Appendix G: Tuberculosis Services for Aboriginal Communities

- Removed as program transferred to FNHA.

Please note that the TB Screening DST has also been updated to ensure consistency with the updates noted above.

If you have questions regarding these changes, please contact Maria MacDougall, Nurse Educator, Clinical Prevention Services or Shaila Jiwa, Senior Practice Leader, Clinical Prevention Services via their contact information below:

Maria MacDougall 604-707-5660 or Maria.Macdougall@bccdc.ca

Shaila Jiwa 604-707-5609 or Shaila.Jiwa@bccdc.ca.

A continued nursing education (CNE) webinar to review the changes is scheduled for **December 12, 2017**. The webinar is hosted by PHSA Webcasting Services: Continued Nursing Education and is recorded for viewing at a later date.

Presentation details include:

Title: Continued Nursing Education Session: TB Manual & DST

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 AM PST

Duration: 1:00:00

Link: <http://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/dd67e68104d44375bc0ad7a60a14d4fe1d>

Sincerely,



Dr. Mark Gilbert, MD, FRCPC
Medical Director, Clinical Prevention 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
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