

# Tuberculosis Screening – Administration and Interpretation of Tuberculin Skin Tests

Highlights	Policy Statement
	<p>The facility will administer and interpret tuberculin skin tests (TST) in accordance with recognized guidelines and pertinent regulations.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Policy Interpretation and Implementation</b></p>
Administering Tuberculin Skin Test	1. Only qualified healthcare practitioners will administer and interpret the TST for employees and/or residents.
Administration Procedure	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.
Two-Step Tuberculin Skin Test	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.
Interpretation Timeframe	4. A qualified nurse or healthcare practitioner will interpret the TST forty-eight (48) to seventy-two (72) hours after administration.
Interpretation Specifications	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 time frame.
Reading TST	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.
Basis of Interpretation	7. Interpretation of a positive TST is based on risk group:
High Risk Group	<p>a. <b>High risk group.</b> &gt;5 mm induration is classified as positive in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) HIV-positive persons;</li> <li>(2) Recent contacts of an active tuberculosis (TB) case;</li> <li>(3) Individuals with fibrotic changes on chest X-ray consistent with previous active TB;</li> <li>(4) Individuals with organ transplants; and</li> <li>(5) Other immunosuppressed individuals.</li> </ul>
Intermediate Risk Group	<p>b. <b>Intermediate risk group.</b> &gt;10 mm induration is classified as positive in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Injectable drug users;</li> <li>(2) Employees and residents of high-risk congregate settings;</li> <li>(3) Mycobacteriology laboratory personnel; and</li> <li>(4) Persons with clinical conditions that place them at high risk.</li> </ul>

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Low Risk Group

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

<b>References</b>	
<b>OBRA Regulatory Reference Numbers</b>	483.65(a); 483.75(b). See also Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> in Health Care Settings, 2005 at: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5417.pdf">http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5417.pdf</a> ; and <a href="http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/tuberculosis/index.html">www.osha.gov/SLTC/tuberculosis/index.html</a>
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