

Area:	Health Services
Subject:	HS14 – Administration of Tuberculosis PPD Skin Test
Reference:	1304.5(j)(i)
Policy:	Registered Nurses will offer PPD skin test to volunteers needing clearance for Grantee RHS/EHS within Stanislaus County. Agencies outside of Stanislaus shall assist volunteers to complete testing at their Health Care Provider or Public Health Clinic.

Procedure:

1. Identify persons requiring procedure:
 - a. Complete TB skin test questionnaire.
 - b. For any yes answers, do not give tuberculin skin test. Complete TB referral documentation. Attach copy of questionnaire and assist in arranging an appointment at the local Public Health TB clinic.
2. Preparation for administration:
 - a. PPD media must be kept refrigerated and stored between 34 degrees and 45 degrees. Solution is to be kept out of light.
 - b. PPD media should not be used after the expiration date.
 - c. Once opened, PPD media must be used within thirty days.
3. Administer test:
 - a. Sterile, disposable safety syringe and needle should be used for each individual patient.
 - b. The site for injection is the flexor surface of the left forearm (PPD).
 - c. Cleanse injection site with 70% alcohol and allow to dry.
 - d. Wipe vial stopper with alcohol and withdraw 0.1 ml. of skin test media into syringe.
 - e. Eliminate air bubbles and determine that the lumen of needle is filled.
 - f. Insert the point of the needle (bevel up) into the most superficial layer of skin and inject 0.1 ml. of skin testing media. A pale bleb of 6-10 mm should arise over the point of the needle. This is quickly absorbed and no dressing is required. NOTE: In the event no bleb is formed, the test should be repeated immediately at another site at least 2 inches away.
4. Reading the PPD test:
 - a. PPD test should be read in 48 to 72 hours.
 - b. Readings should be made in good light with the forearm slightly flexed at the elbow, the basis of reading is the presence or absence of induration, which may be determined by inspection (from a side view against the light, as well as by direct light) and by palpation with a gentle stroking with the finger.
 - c. The diameter of induration should be measured transversely to the long axis of the forearm and recorded in millimeters.
 - d. Only induration should be considered in interpreting the test (erythema does not indicate a positive reaction).
 - e. Positive reactions measure 10 mm or more. Doubtful reactions measure 5 through 9 mm. Negative reactions measure through 4 mm.

5. Report positive and doubtful results to Stanislaus County Public Health Department TB clinic and refer persons to TB Clinic or primary health provider.
6. Complete and distribute TB Clearance Record. Place original in classroom filing cabinet and a copy in contact log. At the end of the year, original is to be kept in Health filing cabinet for four years.
7. If a parent has a positive TB result and needs to be referred, staff must give the parent a Head Start medical billing form to take to the appointment. Staff must provide supervisor with a copy of the form.

Supervised by: Director of Health Services

Performed by: Registered Nurses

Forms needed: Classroom Volunteer TB List, TB Clearance Cards, TB Skin Test Questionnaire

Frequency: Beginning of program year and as needed