

May 28, 2015

Attention: Hospitals – Radiology Department, CCACs

RE: *UPDATE* - TUBERCULOSIS (TB) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS FOR LONG-TERM CARE HOME AND RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

Long-term care homes and retirement homes are legislated under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 and Retirement Homes Act, 2010* (<http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca>), to ensure that residents are screened for TB upon admission to a facility.

In accordance with the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th Edition, The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit recommends that all new residents be screened for active TB disease within 90 days prior to admission or within 14 days after admission.

Tuberculin Skin Tests (TSTs) become increasingly unreliable and difficult to interpret when administered to adults 65 years of age or older. Therefore, TSTs are **not** recommended upon admission for these residents. ***It is recommended for these residents that a chest xray be taken (posterior-anterior and lateral)-within 90 days prior to admission or within 14 days after admission to the facility, with the clinical indication to rule out active TB disease, therefore at no cost to the client.***

It is important that residents do not have active TB disease prior to admission to prevent transmission to others in the facility.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Health Unit and ask to speak with a nurse in the Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology and Evaluation Department.

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705-457-1391

Lindsay
705-324-3569

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905-885-9100

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1-888-255-7839