

June 25, 2018

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Hospitals - Emergency Rooms / Infection Control / Occupational Health, Walk-In Clinics, Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Corrections

RE: TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST (TST) ELIGIBILITY

In 2017, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) released eligibility criteria for Publicly-Funded Tubersol in Ontario, and in 2018, TB Program Guidelines were released stating “routine screening is not covered with the publicly-funded supply of TST”. In keeping with the criteria and guidelines, our Health Unit will now have to charge a fee for TSTs for those who do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility Criteria for Publicly-Funded TST

- Contacts of cases of Tuberculosis
- Tests deemed to be “medically necessary” by the client’s physician or nurse practitioner, based on level of risk as identified in the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th edition – see chapter 13, Table 4 for a complete set of recommendations.
- Clients under the age of 65 who are entering long-term care facilities. Note: Screening via TST is not recommended for clients over the age of 65.
- When required by an educational institution for admission or continuation in a day care or pre-school program, or a program of study in school, community college, university or other educational institution. This criterion includes work placements that are a requirement of the student’s educational program.

As of July 1st, 2018 the Health Unit will be charging a fee for providing TSTs to those who do not meet the eligibility requirements for the publicly-funded supply. The Health Unit will be charging \$20.00 per TST.

It is expected that HCP’s follow the same guidelines and only provide the Publicly-Funded Tubersol to those who meet the eligibility criteria. If your office would like to carry Tubersol that can be sold to clients who do not meet the MOHLTC eligibility criteria, it can be ordered through McKesson Canada. Alternatively, Tubersol may be acquired by the patient, via a prescription through a local pharmacy. To find a pharmacy that carries Tubersol, patients can be directed to the Ontario College of Pharmacists’ website.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact a Nurse in the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Department at 1-866-888-4577 ext 1232.

NOTE: For easier access to the above web links, visit the Health Unit website (www.hkpr.on.ca) for electronic copies of all current – and previous – editions of *FAX Facts*. Go to the ‘Resources & Forms’ header at the top of the web page, and use the drop-down menu to click on the ‘Health Care Professionals’ section (a link to FAX Facts is posted there). A direct link is also provided below: www.hkpr.on.ca/ResourcesForms/HealthCareProfessionals/FAXFacts.aspx

Toll Free
1-866-888-4577

Email
info@hkpr.on.ca

After Hours
1-888-255-7839