

March 24, 2017

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

RE: WORLD TB DAY

Friday March 24th, 2017 is World TB day and this year's message is **UNITE TO END TB!**

The World Health Organization (WHO) End TB Strategy is focusing largely on treating with preventive drug therapy, those infected with TB who are at risk for progression from Latent TB Infection to active TB disease.

Both active and suspect tuberculosis, a communicable disease, and **positive tuberculin skin tests** (Mantoux tests) **must be reported** to the local Health Unit under the authority of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA).

NEW: ONLINE TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST (TST) MODULE

The Health Unit is pleased to offer a free, online and interactive TST module for health care practitioners and students. The module covers the administration and interpretation of tuberculin skin tests, and includes an online quiz at its completion.

<http://www.hkpr.on.ca/ResourcesForms/HealthCareProfessionals/TBResources.aspx>

Reminder: Report Positive TSTs to the Health Unit!

INTERIM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PUBLICLY-FUNDED TUBERSOL

The Population and Public Health Division of the MOHLTC has created interim guidelines to determine a client's eligibility for publicly-funded TST solution (Tubersol®), as part of an ongoing review of screening recommendations in Ontario.

Clients meeting the following criteria are eligible for publicly-funded Tubersol within Ontario:

- 1) Contacts of cases of active TB
- 2) Tests deemed to be "medically necessary" by the client's HCP based on level of risk as identified in the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th edition.
- 3) Clients under the age of 65 who are entering long-term care facilities.
- 4) When required for admission or continuation in a day care or pre-school program, or a program of study in a school, community college, university or other educational institution.

For full details, please refer to the PHO INFOBulletin:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ohip/bulletins/4000/bul4692.aspx>

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