

EMPLOYEE INITIAL TWO-STEP TUBERCULOSIS

PURPOSE:

- o To implement good health care practices and maintaining the safety and health of the consumers and employees/contractors.
- o To provide a baseline of TB exposure for employees/contractors.

POLICY:

Humane Home Care requires all personnel, including independent contractors, who have direct consumer contact, to provide documentation that the individual has been screened for and is free from active mycobacterium tuberculosis. The screening shall be conducted in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for preventing the transmission of mycobacterium tuberculosis in health care settings, the documentation must indicate the date of the screening, which may not be more than one (1) year prior to the individual's start date.

The Agency will require the initial Tuberculosis screenings upon initial hiring and annually thereafter, and the TB screenings must be in accordance with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for preventing the transmission of the mycobacterium tuberculosis in health care settings. The TB Screenings must be completed and results obtained prior to having direct consumer contact.

Master Care HCS Corporation will report all confirmed cases of Tuberculosis to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Employees, who have developed active TB and have undergone treatment, must be deemed "non-infectious" before being permitted to return to work.

EMPLOYEE ANNUAL TB TESTING

POLICY:

Any employee/contractor who has direct patient contact is tested at least every 12 months as per the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the employee/contractor must provide the documentation to the agency. The 12 months must run from the date of the last evaluation. The documentation is included in the individual's file.

Background:

Who Can Receive a Tuberculosis Skin Test?

Most persons can receive a TST. TST is contraindicated for persons who have had a severe reaction (e.g., necrosis, blistering, anaphylactic shock, or ulcerations) to a previous TST. It is not contraindicated for any other persons, including infants, children, pregnant women, persons who are HIV-infected, or persons who have been vaccinated with BCG. (Bacille CalmetteGuerin (BCG) is a live, bacterial vaccine given as a protection against Tuberculosis).

PURPOSE OF THE TWO-STEP TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST (TST)

The two-step tuberculin skin test (TST) is designed to detect individuals with past tuberculosis (TB) infections who now have diminished skin test reactivity.

BENEFITS OF ADMINISTERING TWO-STEP TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST (TST)

Accurately establishes baseline TSTs for employees'/contractor's o Determines TST conversion rates, and more accurately assess agency risk to Reduces the likelihood that a boosted reaction is interpreted as a new infection, which can result in unnecessary investigation, treatment for TB infection, and employer/employee/contractor expense.

BACKGROUND OF BOOSTER PHENOMENON

Some people infected with M. tuberculosis may have a negative reaction to the TST if many years have passed since they became infected. They may have a positive reaction to a subsequent TST because the initial test stimulates their ability to react to the test. This is commonly referred to as the "booster phenomenon" and may incorrectly be interpreted as a skin test conversion (going from negative to positive). For this reason, the "two-step method" is recommended at the time of initial testing for individuals who may be tested periodically (e.g., health care workers).

If the first TST result in the two-step baseline testing is positive, consider the person infected and evaluate and treat the person accordingly. If the first test result is negative, the TST should be repeated in 1—3 weeks. If the second test result is positive, consider the person infected and evaluate and treat the person accordingly; if both steps are negative, consider the person uninfected and classify the TST as negative at baseline testing.

I understand I have to get a TWO-STEP TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST (TST) or Chest X.

Ray before I can begin work.

Employee Signature _____

Date _____