Tuberculosis (TB) Testing of Applicants/New Employees of: Nursing Homes and Community Residential Care Facilities

Definitions

For the purposes of defining Section 44-31-45

"Authorized healthcare provider"	A physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or registered nurse acting under written standing orders or a protocol approved by a physician.
"Blood Assay for mycobacterium tuberculosis" (BAMT)	An interferon-gamma release assay or other blood test for tuberculosis infection approved by the FDA.

Prior to Resident Contact

The facility shall:

Annual Tuberculosis Risk Assessment	The facility shall conduct an annual risk assessment in accordance with CDC guidelines. The facility shall be classified as high, medium, or low risk. The classification is used to guide appropriate screening measures.
Receive a signed, written declaration from an authorized healthcare provider that the applicant has:	1. A negative TB screening test (skin test or blood test) within three months prior to resident contact; or 2. Documentation of a negative TB screening test within the previous 12 months; **AND** 3. Exhibits no signs or symptoms of active TB disease.

In lieu of the signed, written declaration from an authorized healthcare provider

If a facility chooses to place the first step of the two-step skin test (or draw single BAMT) in lieu of the signed, written declaration from an authorized healthcare provider, the facility shall:

1. Place and read the first skin test prior to the applicant beginning work (or draw a single BAMT)
2. Document a signs and symptoms review for active TB for the applicant

An employee must have a negative TB screening test and exhibit no signs/symptoms of active TB disease prior to resident contact.

Resident contact

Within the first 14 days of resident contact, the facility shall:

No further testing required if:	The applicant received a negative BAMT within three months prior to resident contact
If the prior documented negative TB test was a tuberculin skin test — or — If a BAMT was performed more than three months prior to resident contact:	Place and read the second step skin test with the first 14 days of resident contact.

Prior positive or newly positive TB screening test and/or symptomatic for active TB disease

Applicants with a prior positive or newly positive TB test result or who exhibit symptoms of tuberculosis including, but not limited to cough, weight loss, night sweats, or fever, shall immediately undergo a chest radiograph to exclude TB disease.

The applicant must be evaluated for treatment of TB disease or latent TB infection (LTBI).

Exclude from work

If the chest radiograph is unable to exclude TB disease, the applicant must be excluded from work until cleared by the department's TB Control program.

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