



Current Requirements for Tuberculosis Testing in Chapters 2380, 6400, and 6500

ODP Announcement 24-094

AUDIENCE:

Providers subject to 55 Pa.Code Chapters:

- 2380 (Relating to Adult Training Facilities)
- 6400 (Relating to Community Homes for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Autism)
- 6500 (Relating to Life Sharing Homes)

PURPOSE:

To inform providers of updated guidance for complying with Tuberculosis (TB) Testing requirements in Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) licensing regulations.

DISCUSSION:

Chapters 2380, 6400, and 6500 require individuals, provider staff, and Life Sharing household members to have initial and ongoing physical examinations that include TB testing (see “Applicable Regulations” at the close of this announcement). ODP has adopted new standards for compliance with these regulations based on current guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This guidance supersedes and replaces all previous guidance relating to TB testing.

Note: If an individual receives a newly positive TB test result for any reason at any time, the individual's health care provider must be notified to arrange for a symptom evaluation and chest x-ray to rule out TB disease.

Initial Testing

Initial physical examinations for individuals and staff must include a TB test. Acceptable TB tests include:

- Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) (2 step testing required)
- Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood test - QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus).
- Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood test - T-SPOT®.TB test (T-Spot)

During inspections, ODP will look for documentation that one of the acceptable tests were performed and that accompanying orders from the healthcare professional were followed, if applicable.

Annual Testing

After the initial TB test, annual TB testing is not required by ODP unless:

- There are recommendations from healthcare provider for additional testing
- There is positive sign and symptom screening
- There is a known exposure to a case of infectious TB disease, or
- There is ongoing transmission in the health care setting where the individual works.

It is not necessary for providers to obtain documentation that annual TB testing is not recommended. Annual TB test results will only be reviewed during inspections if one of the above conditions present.

Applicable Regulations

§ 2380.111(c)(5)

The physical examination shall include... Tuberculin skin testing with negative results every 2 years; or, if the tuberculin skin test is positive, an initial chest X-ray with results noted.

§ 2380.113(c)(2)

The physical examination shall include...Tuberculin skin testing with negative results every 2 years; or, if the tuberculin skin test is positive, an initial chest X-ray with results noted. Tuberculin skin testing may be completed and certified in writing by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse instead of a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner, or certified physician's assistant.

§ 6400.141(c)(6)

The physical examination shall include...Tuberculin skin testing with negative results every 2 years; or, if the tuberculin skin test is positive, an initial chest X-ray with results noted.

§ 6400.151(c)(2)

The physical examination shall include...Tuberculin skin testing by Mantoux method with negative results every 2 years; or, if tuberculin skin test is positive, an initial chest x-ray with results noted. Tuberculin skin testing may be completed and certified in writing by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse instead of a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner.

§ 6500.121(c)(6)

The physical examination shall include...Tuberculin skin testing by Mantoux method with negative results every 2 years for individuals 1 year of age or older; or, if a tuberculin skin test is positive, an initial chest x-ray with results noted.

§ 6500.125(c)(2)

The physical examination shall include...Tuberculin skin testing by Mantoux method with negative results every 2 years for family members 1 year of age or older; or, if a tuberculin skin test is positive, an initial chest X-ray with results noted. Tuberculin skin testing may be completed and certified in writing by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse instead of a licensed physician.

QUESTIONS:

Questions about this announcement may be directed to ODP's Regulatory Administration Unit at RA-PW6100REGADMIN@pa.gov or to the appropriate ODP Regional Office.

1 55 Pa.Code Chapter 2390 (Relating to Prevocational Facilities) does not include requirements for TB testing as part of the medical evaluation process. The guidance contained in this announcement does not apply to § 2390.101 (relating to Communicable Diseases).