

481—59.5(135B,135C) Baseline TB screening procedures for health care facilities and hospitals.

59.5(1) All HCWs shall receive baseline TB screening upon employment. Baseline TB screening consists of two components: (1) assessing for current symptoms of active TB disease and (2) testing using the two-step TST procedure or a single IGRA to screen for infection with *M. tuberculosis*. If the first-step TST result is negative, the second stage of the two-step TST is recommended one to three weeks after the first TST result was read. Administration of the second stage of the two-step TST shall not exceed 12 months after the first TST result was read. If initiation of the second stage of the two-step TST is greater than 12 months from when the first TST result was read, the two-step procedure must be restarted. If the first-step TST result is positive, it is not necessary to perform the second stage of the two-step TST.

59.5(2) An HCW may begin working with patients or residents after a negative TB symptom screen (i.e., no symptoms of active TB disease) and a negative TST (i.e., first step) or negative IGRA. The second TST may be performed after the HCW starts working with patients or residents.

59.5(3) An HCW with a new positive test result for *M. tuberculosis* infection (i.e., TST or IGRA) shall receive one chest radiograph result to exclude TB disease. Repeat radiographs are not needed unless signs or symptoms of TB disease develop or unless a repeat radiograph is recommended by a clinician. Treatment for LTBI should be considered in accordance with CDC guidelines.

59.5(4) An HCW with documentation of past positive test results (i.e., TST or IGRA) and documentation of the results of a chest radiograph indicating no active disease, dated after the date of the positive TST or IGRA test result, does not need another chest radiograph at the time of hire.

59.5(5) TB, TST or IGRA tests for *M. tuberculosis* infection do not need to be performed for HCWs with a documented history of TB disease, documented previously positive test result for *M. tuberculosis* infection, or documented completion of treatment for LTBI or TB disease. A TB symptom screen and documentation of a previously positive test result for *M. tuberculosis* infection can be substituted for a baseline test result if the documentation includes a recorded TST result in millimeters or IGRA result. All other HCWs should undergo baseline testing for *M. tuberculosis* infection to ensure that the test result on record in the setting has been performed and measured using the recommended diagnostic procedures.

59.5(6) Previous BCG vaccination is not a contraindication to having an IGRA, a TST or a two-step skin testing administered. HCWs with previous BCG vaccination should receive baseline and serial testing in the same manner as those without BCG vaccination. Evaluation of TST reactions in persons BCG-vaccinated should be interpreted using the same criteria for those not BCG-vaccinated. An HCW's history of BCG vaccination should be disregarded when administering and interpreting TST results. Prior BCG vaccination does not cause a false-positive IGRA test result.

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