

## Mercy Clinics Practice Guideline TB Screening

Iowa reported 43 cases of TB in 2007, seven of the cases were in Polk County. The Iowa Department of Public Health recommends targeted PPD **screening only for high risk groups**, which includes people at increased risk for recent TB infection and increased risk for progression to active TB. Low risk populations should not be screened for TB except persons whose future activity will place them at increased risk of exposure. Since only high risk persons are skin tested for TB **the decision to test is a decision to treat if positive.**

### 1. High Risk groups who should be screened include:

- People who have had close day-to-day contact with someone who has active TB
- Residents and employees of high risk congregate settings (e.g., correctional facilities, long-term care facilities, and homeless shelters).
- People who have moved to the United States within the last 5 years from a country where TB is prevalent (i.e., Eastern Europe, Russia, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean).
- People who have HIV infection, immunosuppressed patients, or patients prior to organ transplant.
- Infants, children, and adolescents exposed to adults in high-risk categories.

### 2. Interpretation of skin-test reactions as positive

The size of induration should be recorded and interpreted as follows:

- $\geq 5$  mm of induration
  - For patients with HIV, immunosuppression, recent close contacts with active TB cases, or with an abnormal CXR consistent with prior TB.
- $\geq 10$  mm of induration
  - For all other high risk groups
- $\geq 15$  mm of induration
  - For persons with no risk factors

### 3. Response to a positive PPD skin test

- A chest x-ray should be performed on all patients with a positive PPD test
- All patients with a positive PPD should be started on treatment for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI).
  - The preferred Rx is Isoniazid for 9 months
    - Patients should be monitored for hepatitis by lab tests or clinical symptoms
    - Consider supplementing with pyridoxine to prevent neuropathy
    - INH is available for free from the IDPH and county health departments.

### 4. Other issues

- TB screening for employment may differ from these recommendations. Please refer to employer guidelines for these patients.
- Patients who previously received BCG vaccine should still receive screening if at risk
- TB is a reportable communicable disease, *Iowa Administrative Code 641-1.3(139)*

### References:

- Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection, *MMWR*: June 9, 2000
- [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/tb\\_control.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/tb_control.asp)

*Variation from this guideline is always acceptable if in the opinion of the attending physician individual circumstances require it*