

General Guidelines for Referral to the Hillsborough County Health Department For Patients with Latent Tuberculosis Infection

Patients with a positive skin test and abnormal chest X-ray, symptoms of disease, or risk factors for development of tuberculosis (TB) disease should be referred to the Hillsborough County Health Department Tuberculosis Center at 813-307-8047.

Additionally, the Health Department is available for consultation in the management of latent tuberculosis infection and assesses individual risk to determine appropriateness for referral to the Health Department or management within the medical community.

In 2005 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a revised statement about targeted tuberculin testing and the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Tuberculosis and Refugee Health adopted these guidelines statewide. Of note

- The decision of a healthcare provider to place a tuberculin skin test should always be a decision to complete treatment if LTBI is diagnosed
- Screen patients for tuberculosis (TB) risk factors but only tuberculin skin test those who have risk factors for TB infection **and** progression to active TB disease

The Health Department welcomes referrals of a patient with LTBI who meets at least one of both the risk factors for infection and progression to disease. Additionally, patients should commit to appointment and treatment compliance with the Health Department. Fees are assessed based upon a sliding fee scale.

Risk factors for TB infection

- Recent contact to an infectious case of TB
- Organ transplantation
- Immigration to the US within the last 5 years from a country with a high rate of TB
- Injecting drug users
- Resident of a nursing home, correctional facility, or shelter/transitional housing
- Healthcare workers with exposure to TB disease patients

Risk factors for progression to active TB disease

- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection
- Previous TB in a person who received inadequate treatment indicated by chest X-ray
- Recent infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (within the past 2 years)
- Children less than 5 years of age
- Substance abuse (especially intravenous drug use)
- Diabetes
- End stage renal disease
- Leukemia
- Lymphoma
- Cancer of the head, neck, or lung

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Rick Scott
Governor

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State Surgeon General

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- Intestinal bypass or gastrectomy
- Prolonged corticosteroid therapy and other immunosuppressive therapy
- Silicosis
- Hematologic and reticuloendothelial diseases
- Chronic malabsorption syndromes
- Low body weight (10% or more below ideal)

*We value our partnerships with medical providers in our community
and strive to provide excellence in customer service.
Please call for TB consultation: 813-307-8047.*



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