

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT FOR PERSONS WITH A POSITIVE TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST

The following recommendations for medical evaluation and referral to TB Prevention and Control Saskatchewan are for persons found to have a positive tuberculin skin test (TST) on routine screening (e.g., employee, travel or educational requirements) and are not valid for interpretation of TST in known TB contacts.

STEP 1: Complete recommended medical evaluation.

STEP 2: Determine if the TST reaction is considered positive. Refer to table 1 on page 2. The Online TST/IGRA Interpreter is also available to assist with interpretation <http://www.tstin3d.com/>.

STEP 3: Refer to TB Prevention and Control Saskatchewan as required.

To speak with the TB physician on-call contact the Royal University Hospital switchboard 306.655.1000. For general inquiries and referrals call SK toll-free 1-866-780-6482 or:

Saskatoon Main Office
Royal University Hospital
Phone: 306-655-1740
Fax: 306-655-1495

Prince Albert Office
Cooperative Health Centre
Phone: 306-765-4260
Fax: 306-765-4264

Regina Office
Regina General Hospital
Phone: 306-766-4311
Fax: 306-766-4710

MEDICAL EVALUATION

MEDICAL HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

- o General health evaluation including height/weight
- o Current medications
- o Past medical history
- o Social history
- o Prior TB screening (TST, IGRA, CXR)
- o Prior BCG vaccination
- o Recent or past exposure to TB
- o Previous diagnosis of active or latent TB
- o Previous treatment for active or latent TB
- o Country of birth &/or residence in a high TB incidence country

RECOMMENDATIONS

Refer to TB Prevention and Control SK if negative TST within the previous 2 years

SYMPTOMS

- o Cough \geq 2 weeks
- o Fever \geq 7 days
- o Unexplained weight loss, anorexia, failure to thrive
- o Fatigue, lethargy
- o Hemoptysis
- o Night sweats
- o Chest pain, dyspnea
- o Extrapulmonary signs such as lymphadenopathy

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sputum for AFB x 3 if symptomatic
Consult TB physician on-call as required

RISK FACTORS

- o HIV infection
- o Immunosuppressant therapy for organ transplantation
- o Treatment with anti-TNF drugs
- o Steroid therapy (\geq 15 mg/day for one month or more)
- o Chronic renal failure requiring hemodialysis
- o Cancer of the head and neck
- o Hematologic malignancies
- o Fibronodular disease on CXR (e.g., apical thickening, upper lobe volume loss, multiple nodules, fibrosis)
- o TST conversion within the last 2 years (prior TST negative within 2 years)
- o Diabetes
- o Silicosis
- o Less than 5 years of age

RECOMMENDATIONS

Refer to TB Prevention and Control SK if risk factors present

REQUIRED TESTS

- o HIV test if \geq 13 years of age or at physician discretion if $<$ 13 years
- o CXR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sputum for AFB x 3 if CXR abnormal or HIV infection
Refer to TB Prevention and Control SK if HIV infection or abnormal CXR

TABLE 1:

TST Reaction Size (mm induration)	Situation in which the reaction is considered positive
0 – 4 mm	In general, considered negative and treatment not indicated Child under 5 years of age and high risk of TB infection
≥ 5 mm	HIV Infection Contact with a person with infectious TB within the past 2 years Presence of fibronodular TB on CXR (healed TB and not previously treated) Organ transplantation (related to immune suppressant therapy) Tumour necrosis factor-alpha inhibitors (anti-TNF drugs) Other immunosuppressive drugs (e.g., corticosteroids – equivalent of ≥ 15 mg/day prednisone for one month or more; risk of TB disease increases with higher dose and longer duration) End-stage renal disease
≥ 10 mm	All others, including the following specific situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – TST conversion (within 2 years) – Diabetes, malnutrition (less than 90 % ideal body weight), cigarette smoking, daily alcohol consumption (greater than 3 drinks per day) – Silicosis – Hematologic malignancies (leukemia, lymphoma) and certain carcinomas (e.g., head and neck)

Adapted from: Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Thoracic Society & Canadian Lung Association. (2013) *Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th edition*. Retrieved October 25, 2015 from <http://www.respiratoryguidelines.ca/tb-standards-2013>.