Tuberculosis (TB) Screening in the Ambulatory Setting



Evidence Based Practice

Exclusion criteria:

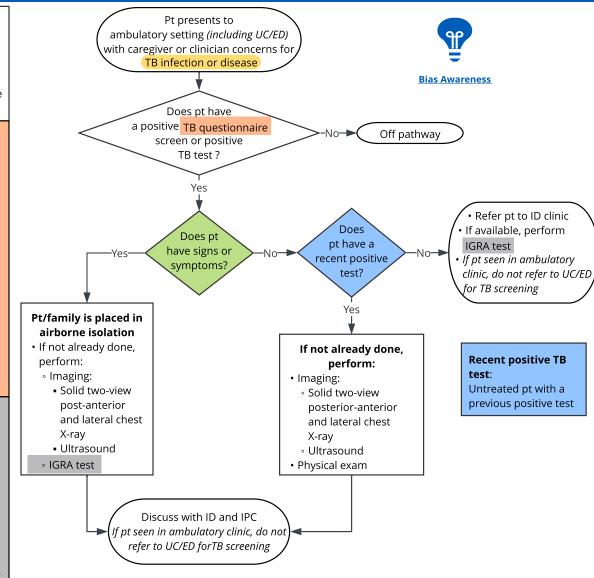
- Pts without concern for TB infection or disease (e.g., general community exposure notification)
- Pts previously diagnosed with TB who have been adequately treated and have no signs or symptoms of active disease

TB Screening Questions (yes to any of these questions results in a positive screen):

- Are there radiographic or clinical findings suggesting TB disease?
- Has a pt's family member or close contact had confirmed or suspected TB disease?
- Has a pt's family member or close contact had a positive TB test result?
- Was the pt born in a high-prevalence country (countries other than the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or Western and North European countries)?
- Has the pt ever lived in or visited a high-prevalence country for a month or more?

IGRA Testing

- IGRA testing is recommended for pts of all ages
- IGRA test names: Quantiferon TB Gold Plus or TSPOT.TB
- See CM Quantiferon TB Gold Plus testing information for collection requirements and timing
- If not available due to timing or location, refer to ID clinic or PCP to coordinate testing
- IGRA results are available within 24 72 hours
- Results = Positive, Negative, or Indeterminate
- Indeterminate results indicate test failure and testing must be repeated



TB infection:

- Defined as a person with MTBC bacteria present in the body
- Pts with positive TB test*
- AND no symptoms or signs of disease
- AND chest radiograph findings are normal or show evidence of healed infection (e.g., calcification in the lung, lymph nodes, or both)
- *Note: IGRA or TST (For information regarding tests for TB not performed at CM please refer to the CDC website)

TB disease:

- Illness in a person with infection attributable to MBTC
- AND apparent signs, symptoms, or radiographic manifestations (can be pulmonary, extrapulmonary, or both)

TB Disease Signs and Symptoms

- Pulmonary TB:
 - Fever, chills, night sweats
 - Weight loss or poor weight gain
 - Cough for > 3 weeks
 - Chest radiographic findings (lymphadenopathy, opacities, pleural effusion, cavitating lesion)
 - See AAP Red Book images
- Extrapulmonary TB:
- Meningitis
- Granulomatous inflammation of lymph nodes, bones, joints, skin, or middle ear and mastoid
- Gastrointestinal TB (mimics inflammatory bowel disease)
- Renal TB
- Congenital TB (mimics neonatal sepsis)

Abbreviations:

ID = Infectious Diseases

IGRA = Interferon gamma release assay

IPC = Infection Prevention & Control

Last Updated: 3.18.2025

MTBC = *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex

TST = Tuberculin skin test