



Nevada State Division of Public and Behavioral Health Technical Bulletin



Topic: Alternate approaches to TB screening during Tuberculin shortage
Section/Program/Contact: Office of Epidemiology / Tuberculosis Program /
Patricia Townsend, State TB Controller
Date: 07/12/13


**TO: All Public Health Authorities, Physicians, Clinicians, Healthcare Workers,
Infection Control Professionals, and Nevada Health Care Quality and Compliance
(HCQC) Personnel**


Notice Regarding Tuberculin Shortage for Tuberculosis Screening

The State of Nevada Tuberculosis Elimination and Control program has been notified of an extended nationwide shortage of Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) antigens. This shortage has caused supply disruption of Tubersol® (a product of Sanofi Pasteur Limited) and Aplisol® (a product of JHP Pharmaceuticals, LLC) in Nevada. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has classified this as a current biological product shortage with ongoing status due to supply and demand issues. This shortage which challenged Nevada in early 2013, has reemerged following the lifting of the embargo on April 25, 2013, as a result of highly-elevated product demand.

Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued through the Health Alert Network Information Service (CDC HAN-00345, April 12, 2013) as to how to approach the temporary shortage, the State of Nevada Tuberculosis Elimination and Control Program suggests utilizing interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) blood tests for immunological screening of latent *M. tuberculosis* infection during the shortage. Serial testing and annual testing as required in NAC:441A, may be conducted with IGRAs or deferred for up to 180 days for persons with a documented negative TST result dated within 12 months of this notice, to allow for the restoration of serum distribution in Nevada.

Should you need any assistance in determining who may be excluded from serial or annual testing during this period, contact your local health department, or the State of Nevada Tuberculosis Elimination and Control Program at (702) 486-0089.

Signed:  Date: August 6, 2013
Tracey Green, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Nevada State Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Signed:  Date: August 6, 2013
Richard Whitley, Administrator
Nevada State Division of Public and Behavioral Health