



**TB ALERT: Resolved Isoniazid (INH) Shortage
Continuing Shortages of Aplisol® and Tubersol®
UPDATED July 9, 2013**

Isoniazid (INH)

The nationwide shortage of INH has resolved. We have experienced no difficulties ordering INH and the FDA Drug Shortages website is no longer listing an INH shortage.

Tuberculin

In April 2013 manufacturers of the purified protein derivative (PPD) used in the tuberculin skin test (TST) began experiencing delays in production resulting in a nationwide shortage. Although the shortage appears to have improved, we are still getting reports that both Aplisol® and Tubersol® are at times on back order and unavailable. Until Aplisol® and Tubersol® supplies are restored, the below recommendations remain in place.

Switching test type or methods for serial testing programs such as health care worker or inmate screening: Switching products (e.g. from Tubersol® to Aplisol®) or methods (e.g. from PPD to IGRA test) might make changes in results more difficult to interpret. In controlled studies, the concordance between TST results from Tubersol® and Aplisol® is high. False positive results associated with Aplisol® are usually due to misreading of the TST. When reading TSTs, measure transverse (across the arm) only and look for firm induration (not erythema or soft tissue swelling). The concordance between results from a TST and IGRA is lower.

Recommendations for Responding to Tuberculin Shortage

- If available, screen for LTBI with an Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) (T-Spot or QuantiFERON-GIT) instead of a TST.
- Prioritize TSTs if necessary. High-priority groups could include:
 - Persons infected with HIV.
 - Persons who are immunocompromised.
 - Contacts to a person with pulmonary or laryngeal TB.
- If necessary, defer annual screening of employees and/or inmates until sufficient tuberculin becomes available.
- If serial testing is temporarily deferred, TB symptom screening should still occur.
- **If the need arises to defer a serial testing program (healthcare worker or inmate testing) due to shortage of PPD inform:**
TB Control, OHA at 971-673-0169 or email heidi.behm@state.or.us.