

Information on Tuberculin Skin Testing

Who should be tested?

- Persons with signs and symptoms of active TB disease
- Recent contacts of known active TB case(s)
- Those born in or travelling to areas where tuberculosis is endemic
- Persons who have high risk of exposure to TB, e.g. substance abuse, poverty etc.
- Persons who are immunocompromised, e.g. HIV infection, diabetes, elderly
- At risk of occupational exposure to TB, e.g. health care or correctional workers
- Staff and residents of a communal living facility, e.g. nursing home, retirement home, correctional institutions etc.
- Those employed in settings where they may infect infants, children or adolescents, e.g. day care workers/volunteers, teachers

TB skin testing is appropriate for those who:

- Do not know their TB status
- Have no history of active TB disease
- Have no recorded skin test reaction in mm of induration

Why administer a 2-step skin test?

A positive TB skin test reaction may gradually wane over time. Often, there may be no reaction to an initial skin test, yet significant reaction may occur when retested one to four weeks later. This delayed response is termed the "booster" phenomenon and can result in the misinterpretation of the positive test as a new infection or recent conversion. Doing a two-step test for certain persons provides an accurate "baseline" for future testing.

Who should have a 2-step skin test?

- Persons who are immunosuppressed
- Persons from countries with a high prevalence of TB
- Residents of communal living facilities
- Persons previously vaccinated with BCG
- Persons who will receive TB skin tests at regular intervals, e.g. health care, correctional services etc.

IMPORTANT FACTS

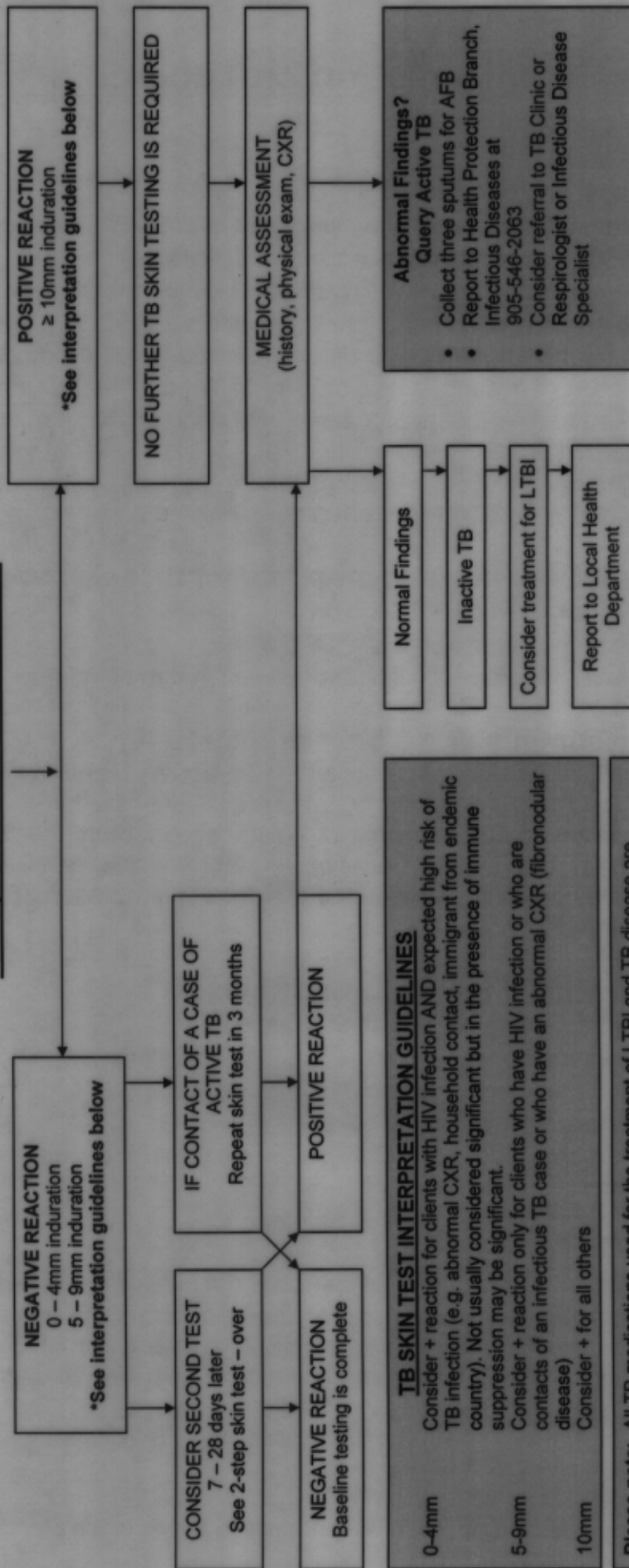
- Repeated tuberculin testing does not sensitize uninfected persons
- A history of BCG is not a contraindication to TB skin testing. Do **not** assume that a positive reaction is due to BCG. Unless the BCG is very recent, most positive reactions are indicative of infection with *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* and further assessment may be required.
- Pregnancy is **not** a contraindication to TB skin testing



Hamilton

MANTOUX SKIN TEST FLOWCHART

TB SKIN TEST
 * Always record in mm of induration



TB SKIN TEST INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES
 Consider + reaction for clients with HIV infection AND expected high risk of TB infection (e.g. abnormal CXR, household contact, immigrant from endemic country). Not usually considered significant but in the presence of immune suppression may be significant.
 Consider + reaction only for clients who have HIV infection or who are contacts of an infectious TB case or who have an abnormal CXR (fibronodular disease)
 Consider + for all others

Please note: All TB medications used for the treatment of LTBI and TB disease are provided free of charge by calling Infectious Diseases at 905-546-2063.