

POLICY AND PROCEDURE PERTAINING TO TUBERCULOSIS RIGHT TO UNDERSTAND POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose is to establish guidelines to follow regarding training requirements on TB right to understand policy required by employees.

POLICY

It is the policy of EON, Inc. to ensure employees are educated/protected thru the employee right to understand program and are able to follow the policy and procedure as annually trained.

PROCEDURE

The EON, Inc. tuberculosis (TB) program is supervised by the EON, Inc. registered nurse (RN) member of the Safety Committee.

I. Employee Right to Understand Program

Annually all employees will be provided with an in-service on TB and protective equipment. It should be noted that since EON, Inc. service areas are in minimal/low risk areas, guidelines have been set up based on our agency not treating suspect or active cases of TB. The information on TB will be available to all employees at central office and as they request.

II. Educational Format

- In-service at orientation.
- Training on TB/respiratory masks in an annual in-service.
- Handouts will be available to all employees with information on TB upon request.
- All information on EON, Inc.'s TB program will be available at central office. Contact EON, Inc. OSHA RN or administration.

III. Symptoms of Active TB Disease

A person with active TB disease may have all or none of the following symptoms:

- Cough that will not go away;
- Feeling of tiredness/weakness all the time;
- Weight loss;
- Loss of appetite;
- Fever;
- Coughing up blood;
- Night sweats;

- Chest pain.

These symptoms can occur with other lung diseases, so it is important to be checked if a person has any of these symptoms.

If you have any questions regarding TB, you may contact:

- A. Any EON, Inc. staff nurse or supervisor who can refer you to nursing personnel;
- B. Further follow-up to be done by employee's primary physician;
- C. Public Health Nursing for Brown County (507) 233-6820;
- D. Infection control personnel at New Ulm Medical Center (507) 217-5000.

IV. TB Screening

- No person who is contagious with TB may provide services that require direct contact with clients.
- A 2-step Mantoux (PPD) test for employees in Intermediate Care Facility for Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) and Home Care will be done upon hiring unless proof can be shown of a 2-step Mantoux/PPD (purified protein derivative) test within 90 days of hire for ICF/DD employees and for Home Care employees. An RN from EON, Inc. can administer and read this test for you.

If the RN is not available to read the test, it is the responsibility of the staff to call 1913 Alison (507) 354-3501 and arrange for a time for the PPD test to be read by one of the nurses. You will need to have your documentation sheet for having received the PPD test with you, so that the nurse reading the test can sign off. The completed Mantoux/PPD documentation needs to be returned to EON Central Office. For staff living outside of the County the EON, Inc. Central Office is located, a hospital, clinic, or Public Health Nursing Service can administer and read the PPD test. Please have your documentation sheet indicating date and time of PPD test along with you, and when completed, return to EON, Inc. Central Office.

- Health care workers who have a documented history of a positive tuberculin skin test, adequate treatment for disease, or adequate treatment for latent infection, should be exempt from further tuberculin skin testing. Health care workers with positive tuberculin skin test results should have a chest radiograph as part of the initial evaluation of their tuberculin skin test; if negative, repeat chest radiographs are not needed unless symptoms develop that could be attributed to TB. If health care workers with a documented history of a positive tuberculin skin test develop signs and symptoms suggestive of TB, they should undergo a medical evaluation including a chest radiograph. (Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines, State of Minnesota)

V. Exposure to TB

In our setting, it is not possible to treat those with active disease. Those individuals would be referred to a treating facility like Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato, MN.

If an individual would need treatment and would need transporting, the ambulance service would be contacted.

A High Efficiency Mask filters out particulate matter so the TB bacteria would not be inhaled. These are one-time use masks available in medium and large. These masks can be obtained at EON, Inc. Central Office in the nurse office (on top of 4-drawer filing cabinet) during business hours or at the 1407 10th North house at all other times.

Workers who are frequently exposed to individuals with TB and health care workers who are involved with high risk procedures (e.g. bronchoscopy, sputum, induction, or aerosol treatments given to patients who may have TB) should be retested every six months.

All exposures or suspect/active cases should be documented, and Brown County Public Health advised. The other individuals exposed may need a TB skin test done at two different intervals and be advised of symptoms to watch for.

VI. Risk Assessment of TB in the EON, Inc. Services sites counties (Brown, Blue Earth, and Renville Counties):

A risk assessment shall be conducted yearly by EON, Inc. Safety Committee supervising RN. This information will be obtained from the Public Health Department and any CDC/OSHA information will be reported. Changes in EON, Inc. protocol on TB will be monitored according to the risk assessment and recommendations from CDC/OSHA. Risk assessment information is relayed to the Safety Committee in May when statistics are available from the state and will be included in the meeting minutes and placed in the EON, Inc. RN's Safety Policies book. (Risk assessments for these Counties place EON, Inc. and the individuals served in the very low risk category.)

In addition, a facility risk assessment will be completed yearly in April by the supervising RN member of the Safety Committee for each ICF/DD and Home Care. This assessment will be included in the meeting minutes and placed in the EON, Inc. RN's Safety Policies book.

VII. PPD Tracking

The CDC requirements for PPD testing according to risk for TB in our areas are to do a 2-step PPD test on hire and then to monitor for symptoms in employees annually thereafter if risk in our area would dictate.

As new Home Care staff and ICF/DD staff are added, the supervising nurse will check if they have had a 2-step PPD test within the past three months.

REFERENCED POLICIES

REFERENCED FORMS

HX-5-1 TUBERCULIN CLEARANCE REPORT

HX-5-2 APPENDIX B TUBERCULOSIS RISK ASSESSMENT WORK SHEEET

HX-5-3 TUBERCULOSIS RISK ASSESSMENT