

# Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST/Mantoux/PPD)

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## WHAT IS A TB SKIN TEST (TST)?

This test is used to aid in detection of tuberculosis. Tuberculin skin test solution is made from a protein which is part of the TB organism. The test can show if you have been exposed to TB at any time in the past.

## WHO SHOULD HAVE A TEST?

A Tuberculin skin test is commonly used to screen people. People who may need screening are people who have been in contact with someone who has TB, who have symptoms that might indicate TB, **who may be starting certain medications**, or who require routine screening before beginning a health care job or prior to entering health care training programs.

## HOW IS THE TEST ADMINISTERED?

A small amount of the solution called tuberculin is injected under the skin of the forearm. For a short time after the injection, a small raised area under the skin may appear at the site of the injection.

## HOW IS THE TEST READ?

The test should be examined by a Nurse or Doctor 48-72 hours after the test to see if there is a positive or negative reaction. The result of this test may vary from no reaction at all to a red raised area with some surrounding redness. Occasionally, someone very sensitive to the tuberculin may have some blistering at the site of the test. This will usually clear up without treatment. Your nurse or doctor will tell you if your test is positive or negative.

## HOW DO I TAKE CARE OF MY ARM AFTER THE TEST?

- Do **not** cover the area with a bandage or tape.
- Do **not** rub or scratch the area.
- If the area becomes itchy, place a cold wet cloth on it.

## WHO SHOULD NOT RECEIVE A TEST?

You should not receive a tuberculin skin test if you are sick with a fever or infection or have had any of the following:

- A documented positive tuberculin skin test in the past
- An allergic or severe reaction to previous tuberculin skin test
- Treatment for Tuberculosis in the past
- A live vaccine in the past 4-6 weeks.

**If you have any questions, please ask your Specialist, Family Doctor or Nurse.**