

## **TB Testing for Nursing Home Patients on Admission**

*The American Geriatrics Society recommends, in order to establish baseline information, the practice of either one step TB testing (Quantiferon or T-Spot) or two-step PPD testing for all nursing home (NH) residents.* Residents who react to either the first or second PPD skin test represent a reservoir of latent tuberculosis (TB) and are at risk to develop reactivation TB. Those residents who do not react to two-step PPD testing are immunologically naive to TB and susceptible to primary tuberculosis infection. Some may be anergic.(1)

If a patient has tested positive for TB or is verified to have latent/inactive TB, a Chest X-Ray may be conducted to further verify the TB is inactive and therefore not a risk to others.

A Chest x-ray also may be conducted in lieu of either form of TB testing if a patient is allergic to or refuses traditional forms of TB testing.

### **Why is TB Testing conducted?**

Despite national trends reflecting a steady decline in the number of TB cases reported annually in the United States between 1993 and 2006, there are still several areas of ongoing concern:

**\*\*While TB cases declined nationally, TB cases continue to be reported in almost every state and *actually increased in some areas.* (4)**

**Nursing homes or long-term care facilities for the elderly have been identified as having a high-risk situation for the transmission of TB. (5)**

### **Resources:**

- 1 <http://www.annalsoflongtermcare.com/article/5369>
- 2 <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/testing/skintesting.htm>
- 3 <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/guidelines/infectioncontrol.htm>
- 4 <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/ssmodules/pdfs/module2.pdf>
- 5 <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/tb/tb.html>