



**Division of Provider Services
and Quality Assurance**

Office of Long Term Care

<http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dms/Pages/oltcHome.aspx>

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LTC-2019-08

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Nursing Facilities;** **ICFs/MR 16 Bed & Over;** **HDCs;**
 ICFs/MR Under 16 Beds; **Interested Parties;** **DHS County Office**

FROM: **Cecilia Vinson, Director, Office of Long Term Care** *Cecilia Vinson*

DATE: **October 25, 2019**

RE: **Advisory Memo – Tuberculosis (TB) Testing**

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) recently released new guidance from the CDC recommending new testing procedures in light of upcoming rule changes and impending shortage of tuberculosis (TB) testing materials.

Due to the changes in CDC guidelines, proposed changes to rules regarding TB testing, and that the CDC has declared a shortage of Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) solution for administering the TB Skin Test (TST), OLTC will expect facilities to comply with the latest CDC recommendations.

EMPLOYEES:

As stated in the updated CDC guidance, health care workers can now go through a screening process and not automatic testing. While facilities can discontinue the routine testing process, the screening process must continue, and this must be properly documented.

RESIDENTS:

The updated guidance from the CDC only refers to employees, not patients or residents. However, we understand that there is a nationwide shortage of the testing solution. While this shortage continues, facilities should use the attached questionnaire for residents. If the resident is not symptomatic and does not meet the criteria on this questionnaire, this documentation will suffice during the shortage. In the event that a resident is symptomatic, a blood test may be considered. **Please note that active and latent tuberculosis are reportable to ADH as before. Facilities should ensure proper assessment and treatment options if employees or residents become symptomatic.**

During this shortage, facilities should document assessments of new residents (and existing residents on an annual basis) with the attached tool, and document their ongoing communication with their pharmacy or PPD supplier, as per the first bullet on the questionnaire form.

If you need this material in alternative format such as large print, please contact our Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 501-682-8307 (voice) or 501-682-6789 (TDD).

CS/lp

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