

April 7, 2020

Up-To-The-Minute Notice To Substance Use (SU) Treatment Providers

Tuberculosis Testing Requirements During COVID-19 Emergency

Due to the difficulty obtaining TB testing and the need to decrease non-emergency visits to Health Care facilities, Contra Costa Alcohol and Other Drug Services (AODS) is temporarily relaxing the requirements for Tuberculosis (TB) testing for clients receiving services in a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment program as follow:

Regulatory Requirements -

Title 9 CCR § 10567. Resident Health Screening

(b) Every resident shall be tested for tuberculosis under licensed medical supervision within six (6) months prior to or thirty (30) days after admission and annually thereafter if continuous participation is maintained.

(1) Residents with a known record of tuberculosis or record of positive testing shall not be required to be retested if a physician verifies the individual has been under regular care and monitoring for tuberculosis.

Outpatient Facilities

AODS will waive the TB testing requirements for clients when there is no evidence of symptoms.

Regardless, all clients should be screened for TB symptoms. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that the minimum questions should be:

Risk Assessment Questions TB testing is recommended if any of the 4 boxes below are checked
Are you currently experiencing a prolonged cough, coughing up blood, fever, night sweats, weight loss, or excessive fatigue? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Have you recently traveled to, or resided in a country with an elevated TB rate? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Have you had close contact to someone with infectious TB disease during your lifetime? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do you have HIV infection, organ transplant recipient, take steroid or other immunosuppressive medications? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

If a client answers yes to any of the screening questions, TB testing should be required as per existing timeframes. If the patient answers in the negative to all the questions, then the requirements of TB testing is waived through 9/1/2020.



Preguntas para Determinar el Nivel de Riesgo

El Departamento de la Salud recomienda un examen para detectar Tuberculosis si usted responde que SI a las preguntas del siguiente cuestionario

Está usted padeciendo de una tos prolongada, há tosido sangre, há tenido fiebre, sudores noctúrnos, há sufrido pérdida de peso ó fatiga en excésó?

SI NO

Há viajado reciénemente ó vivído en un país con una tasa elevada de tuberculosis? SI NO

Há tenido contacto con alguien infectado con Tuberculosis during toda su vida? SI NO

Tiene usted una infección the Virus de Inmuno Deficiencia (VID), ha recibído algún transplante de organos, ó toma esteroides ú otros medicamentos que suprimen su sistema inmune?

SI NO

SUD Treatment Facilities

Residential providers should continue to adhere to Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 10567; however, due to the significant impact posed by COVID-19 to Contra Costa Health Services medical resources which are now positioned to respond to this unprecedented public health crisis, obtaining a TB test is temporarily not considered a priority medical need and in fact, it counteract other strategies intended to mitigate risk and exposure to prevent transmission of COVID-19 to staff and clients. As a result, Dr. Ori Tzvieli, Deputy Health Officer, for Contra Costa County has issued a ***Questionnaire-Based Temporary Waiver from TB Testing***, which shall be placed in the chart of each client admitted into SUD residential and Outpatient treatment who meet the requirements for TB testing during this period of time. The ***Questionnaire-Based Temporary Waiver from TB Testing*** Form is attached to this **Up-To-The-Minute Notice to SUD Providers**.

DOCUMENTATION

Although the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has assured counties that during this COVID-19 period of time they will soften requirements, AODS wants to offer as much guidance to help us all prevent disallowances.

- 1) The answered ***Questionnaire-Based Temporary Waiver from TB Testing*** Form should be documented in the patient's record or chart.

AND

- 2) Please include the following statement in the Treatment Plan if the beneficiary is not able to provide a recent TB Test.



DIMENSION 2:

Problem: The beneficiary does not have proof of a current TB Test

Goal: To obtain and provide proof of completing a TB Test

Target Date: 30 calendar days after intake.

If the beneficiary is not able to complete the test within the first 30 days, CARRY OVER GOAL FOR ANOTHER 30 days and continue to do so until complete.

In the content of the intake note, the provider should clearly document that the client answered the screening questions and agreed to completing a TB test as required.

**Utilization Management and Utilization Review (UM/UR)
Authorizations During COVID-19 Additional Emergency Temporary Changes**

Please note the following additional temporary changes effective Friday, April 3, 2020 per Bles Surio, Utilization Review Manager

Because of the unprecedented time we are experiencing due to COVID19, Fatima and Bles mutually agreed that authorization for 3.1 Residential Services will be given 60 days initial authorization and 30 days for the reauthorization thereafter. This is a temporary response to further relax UM/UR requirements. Furthermore, in the spirit of prioritizing the safety of clients and staff, UM/UR will adhere to the minimum requirements and will minimize questions and requests for corrections related to medical issues. Should there be any questions about SUD authorizations, please contact Bles directly.

RESIDENTIAL providers must continue to send required documentation via fax at 925/608-6799.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please feel free to contact AODS Administration for additional help at (925) 335-3330.

