

Policy 2.14 - Medical Directive Required for Tuberculin Skin Testing

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide standards to Public Health nurses and their employers concerning the requirements for medical directives to administer Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST) through the provision of communicable disease follow up.

Preamble: Providing TST is within the scope of practice for registered nurses in New Brunswick. Nurses are guided by professional practice standards and are at all times accountable for their practice and compliance with relevant standards.

Providing safe TST requires that the provider follow practices as detailed in the *Canadian Tuberculosis Standards* for:

- Administration
- Precautions
- Measuring Induration
- Interpretation of a Negative TST Result
- Management of a Positive TST Result
- Interpretation of a Positive TST
- Interpretation When Serial (repeated) TST is Performed

Regional Medical Officers of Health have a mandate to provide the medical direction necessary for the administration of vaccine/biologics.

Policy: Nurses working in Public Health settings under the regional health authorities will provide TST services under the medical direction of the Regional Medical Officer of Health.

Procedures:

1. A medical directive for the provision of TST for communicable follow up will be provided for Public Health nurses by the Regional Medical Officer of Health. Refer to Appendix 4.1.9 *Medical Directive for Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST)*.
2. Public Health nurses employed by the regional health authorities will ensure that they have met conditions outlined in the medical directive.
3. For Public Health nurses employed by the regional health authorities, the director of public health programs (or designate) will ensure that all conditions of the medical directive are met.
4. The medical directive will be reviewed by all parties and updated each fiscal year.
5. A copy of the medical directive will be available to staff in all sites where the medical directive is applied. Refer to Appendix 4.1.9 *Medical Directive for Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST)*.