



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

Laura Gerald, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Director

February 1, 2013

To: Local Health Department TB Programs
From: Jason Stout, MD, MHS, TB Controller/Medical Director
Re: Tubersol® Shortage

As you may be aware, in addition to the shortage of isoniazid there is a shortage of Tubersol® (PPD). Pending resolution of this shortage, the NC TB program recommends the following measures:

- Prioritize tuberculin skin testing for persons of highest public health priority, in priority order:
 1. Contacts to a person with pulmonary or laryngeal TB
 2. As part of an evaluation of persons with symptoms suggestive of TB disease
 3. Persons arrived from high TB incidence countries within the past year
 4. Persons infected with HIV
- Defer routine annual tuberculin skin testing performed as part of an infection control program (i.e. employee screening)
- Consider alternative screening tests such as an Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)—blood tests for TB infection (T-SPOT®.TB and QuantiFERON® Gold in-tube).
 - Per the recent (8/2012) revision to the NC Administrative code and CDC guidelines, IGRAs are acceptable for screening recent contacts, persons with HIV/AIDS, and any other individuals for tuberculosis infection in which a tuberculin skin test might be used
- Aplisol®, an alternative formulation of tuberculin, is an acceptable alternative to Tubersol® for tuberculin skin testing. It is recommended that programs that do serial testing use the same preparation of tuberculin year to year to avoid reported issues with false-positive tests associated with switching preparations. Aplisol® is a good choice for persons requiring one-time screening or for testing performed as part of a contact investigation (i.e. initial and 8-week testing) as long as Aplisol® is used for both tests. Be advised that due to anticipated increased demand, it is not clear that an adequate supply of Aplisol® will be available to meet all the need.

At this time it is anticipated that Tubersol® will be available in several months, but this is only an estimate. Please contact your regional TB nurse consultant or state medical TB consultant with any questions or concerns.

www.ncdhhs.gov • www.publichealth.nc.gov

Tel 919-707-5000 • Fax 919-870-4829

Location: 5605 Six Forks Road • Raleigh, NC 27609

Mailing Address: 1931 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1931

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