

FOCUS MEDICAL FAMILY PRACTICE
TUBERCULOSIS SKIN TEST INSTRUCTIONS

WHAT IS A TUBERCULOSIS (TB) SKIN TEST?

The tuberculosis skin test is a test used to determine if someone has developed an immune response to the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB). This response can occur if someone currently has TB, if they were exposed to it in the past, or if they received the BCG vaccine against TB

Some patients require a one step TB test

***Even though this is referred to as one step, this still involves 2 visits to our office (48-72hrs apart). The booking for those visits are described below.

ONE STEP TB TEST:

-you must have the tuberculin serum injected in to your arm by a member of our office staff (you don't need an appointment for this, as the receptionist can do it). This is called placing the test.

-you must book an appointment to return 48-72 hours after the serum has been injected so a physician can interpret the test results. This is called reading the test.

-if the TB test isn't read during the 48-72 hour period, it will be invalid and need to be repeated from the beginning, so please make sure that you have availability to complete the process as needed before you start.

-example: you can come in Monday at 1pm (no appointment needed) to have the TB test placed. You can then return to the office on Wednesday at 1pm for your appointment with the doctor to read the test.

Some patients require a two step TB test

The two-step tuberculin skin test (TST) is used to detect individuals with past tuberculosis (TB) infection who now have diminished skin test reactivity. This procedure will reduce the likelihood that a boosted reaction is later interpreted as a new infection.

Who should receive a two-step TB skin test?
(your institution will indicate this on your form)

The two-step TST should be completed by applicants/students who:

- have never been tested; or
- have no documentation of prior testing; or
- do not remember being tested; or
- tested negative over 12 months ago

The second step of the TB test requires an additional 2 visits to our office and the booking for these visits is described below:

TWO STEP TB TEST:

- the 2nd step is exactly the same as the 1st step (therefore another 2 visits, exactly 48-72 hours apart)
- the tuberculin must be placed for the second step of the TB test a minimum of 1, and a maximum of 4, weeks after the first step of the Tb test has been placed
follow the same protocol for booking as is done for the one step Tb test