

### Resources for Question:

#### “Does a person with a previously positive TST need additional/annual chest X-rays?”

- (1) ***Interactive Core Curriculum on Tuberculosis***, Chapter 3, "Testing for Tuberculosis"  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/webcourses/CoreCurr/index.htm>

"...For persons who have a positive test for TB infection, who have had TB disease ruled out, and who refuse treatment for LTBI, routine follow-up tests for LTBI and chest radiographs are unnecessary. These patients should be instructed to seek medical attention if they experience symptoms and signs suggestive of active TB disease..."

- (2) ***MMWR, Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health-Care Setting, 2005***, p.30 – 31  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5417.pdf>

### "Chest Radiography

HCWs with a baseline positive or newly positive TST or BAMT result should receive one chest radiograph to exclude a diagnosis of TB disease (or an interpretable copy within a reasonable time frame, such as 6 months). After this baseline chest radiograph is performed and the result is documented, repeat radiographs are not needed unless symptoms or signs of TB disease develop or a clinician recommends a repeat chest radiograph (39,116). Instead of participating in serial testing for *M. tuberculosis* infection, HCWs with a positive test result for *M. tuberculosis* infection should receive a symptom screen. The frequency of this symptom screen should be determined by the risk classification for the setting.

Serial follow-up chest radiographs are not recommended for HCWs with documentation of a previously positive test result for *M. tuberculosis* infection, treatment for LTBI or TB disease, or for asymptomatic HCWs with negative test results for *M. tuberculosis* infection. HCWs who have a previously positive test result for *M. tuberculosis* infection and who change jobs should carry documentation of a baseline chest radiograph result (and the positive test result for *M. tuberculosis* infection) to their new employers."

- (3) ***Georgia Tuberculosis Infection Control Plan, 2001***, p. 19-20.  
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/tb/publications.asp>

"...Employees, physicians, and volunteers who have written documentation of a previous positive TST result are required to have a symptom screening (using the Early Detection of TB Questionnaire in Appendix A) whenever a TST would be required on an employee with a negative test result. These persons should be educated about the signs and symptoms of TB disease and instructed to consult with a physician if any signs and symptoms occur. If the symptom screen reveals signs or symptoms of TB, the employee will be excluded from the workplace. A new chest x-ray and physical assessment is then required..."

- (4) ***Georgia Tuberculosis Reference Guide, 2005***, p. 7.  
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/tb/publications.asp>

"...Persons with a newly documented positive tuberculin skin test should have a chest x-ray performed to assure that they do not have active tuberculosis disease. After an initial negative chest x-ray, **no routine follow-up chest x-rays are necessary.** Persons with a positive tuberculin skin test should be educated about the signs and symptoms of TB disease and instructed to consult with a physician if these symptoms occur..."

**Sample Tuberculosis (TB) Symptom Screen** (look under "TB Assessments"  
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/tb/publications.asp>