

# The TB Skin Test

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## TST..WHO CAN ADMINISTER?

- IN VIRGINIA, only prescribers (MD, NP & PA) RN's and LPN's( working under the direct supervision of an RN ) can legally possess and administer tuberculin which is regulated as a class VI substance.
- VIRGINIA CODE 54.1-3408 G

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## TB Skin Testing Second Encounter

- MEASUREMENT
- FOLLOW-UP

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## Reading The Skin Test

- Test is read 48 - 72 hours after the injection
- Individuals who present after 72 hours? Positive test can be read up to one week
- Diameter of the indurated area is measured across the forearm
- Erythema (redness) is not measured
- Record in MM

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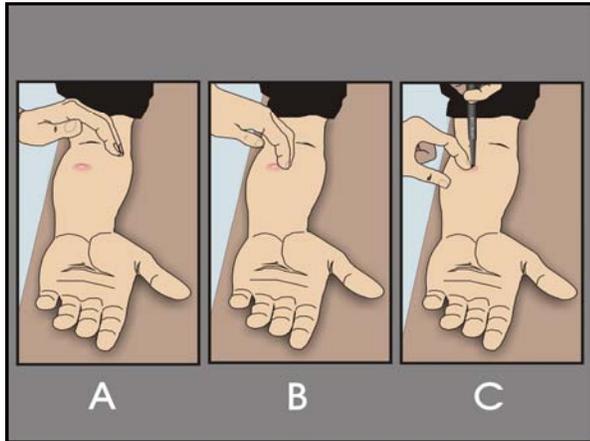
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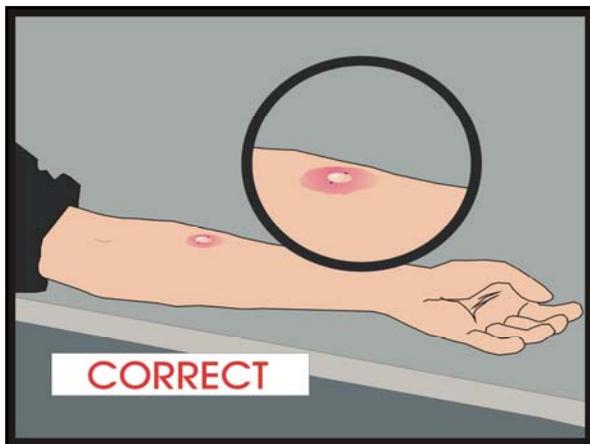
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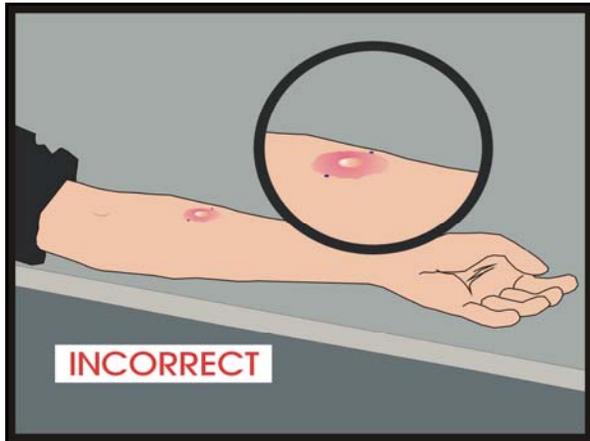
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### Recording the PPD Test Reaction

- Recording the skin test reading is a two-step process
  - Determine the measurement of the TST reaction in mm of induration
  - Record the measurement in MM
- ORWs are not allowed to determine significance

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### Evaluation and Management of Persons + TST or IGRA Results

- Evaluate promptly for active disease
  - CXR – repeat only for symptoms/exposure
  - symptom screen
- Isolate symptomatic persons until TB ruled-out or no longer infectious
- Remind periodically of symptoms of active TB and need for prompt evaluation

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## Factors That Can Cause A False-Positive Reading

- Infection with non-tuberculous mycobacteria (mycobacterium, other than *M.tb* or MOTT)
- Vaccination with BCG
  - **BCG is not a contraindication for TST !**
- Follow-up of positive reaction the same
  - CXR
  - Evaluation for treatment

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## Factors That Can Cause A False-Negative Reading

- **Recent TB infection**
  - It takes 2 - 10 weeks after TB infection for the body's immune system to be able to react to the tuberculin
- **Anergy**
  - The inability to react to an antigen because of a weakened immune system – many causes
  - In HIV, anergy increases with decreased immune response (if CD 4 < 200 = 72% anergic)
  - Testing with anergy panels no longer recommended

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## Factors That Can Cause A False-Negative Reading (cont.)

- Very young age (< 6 months old)
- Live virus vaccination (e.g., MMR, nasal flu, roto,varicella, zoster, herpes, yellow fever)
  - Defer TST 4-6 weeks
- Immunosuppressive drugs, corticosteroids, new class of arthritis drugs(TNFa)
- Overwhelming active TB

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# PRACTICE

- Arms for measurement
- Money for measurement

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