

## **Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Caregiver TB Screening Requirement**

Eldercare Solutions, Inc. requires caregivers to have pre-employment health screenings, including a two-step TB skin test (PPD). Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria transmitted from an infectious source to susceptible persons primarily through the air (e.g., through coughing). Most infected persons do not experience clinical illness, but are usually asymptomatic and noninfectious. The only evidence of infection may be a reaction to a tuberculin skin test. However, infection can persist for years, and infected persons can remain at risk for developing clinical TB, especially if the immune system becomes impaired.

**Q: What is the TB screening requirement for employees?**

A: All employees must have a TB skin test done within 60 days prior to employment.

**Q: Is it necessary to repeat the skin test every year?**

A: No. The skin test does not need to be repeated every year. However, employees with negative skin tests are required to repeat the test every 4 years. For employees with a documented positive skin test, a follow-up chest x-ray is needed to rule out active TB disease, but repeat skin testing and chest x-rays are not needed.

**Q: What documentation is needed?**

A: Every employee file must contain documentation from the examining physician indicating the employee is free from active TB disease.

**Q: Where can people go for a TB skin test?**

A: People can go to their private physician, a community clinic or one of the regional public health centers.

**Q: What is the cost of a TB skin test at the public health centers?**

A: A TB skin test at the public health centers ranges from \$8-15, although all fees are based on the individual's ability to pay. Nobody will be refused for an inability to pay. However, fees cannot be waived if the test is required for employment or volunteer purposes.

**If you have any questions regarding TB screening guidelines,  
please call 858-457-8080.**