

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS  
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## ADP BULLETIN

Title <b>Tuberculosis (TB) Screening for Readmittance to a Maintenance or Detoxification Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP)</b>		Issue Date: 01-20-98  Expiration Date:	Issue No. <b>98-02</b>
Deputy Director Approval  Original signed by: ROBERT L. JACKSON, R.Ph. Quality Assurance Division	Function <input type="checkbox"/> Information Management <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Assurance <input type="checkbox"/> Service Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal <input type="checkbox"/> Administration	Supersedes Bulletin/ADP Letter No.	

**PURPOSE****DISCUSSION**

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) regulation, Title 9, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 10270(a)(2), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation, 21 Code of Federal Regulation, 291.505(d)(3)(I), requires that a patient must undergo a medical evaluation for admission into a NTP.

The evaluation must include the following laboratory examinations: serological test for syphilis, a tuberculin skin test, and a test for narcotic drug use. Currently, ADP requires that these tests be given to the patient for readmission to a program, regardless how recent the prior admission.

Several NTPs and the Department of Health Services (DHS) have brought to our attention the potential health risk involved with the frequent administration of the Mantoux Tuberculin skin test. Recently, ADP received a letter from DHS along with their 1997 Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Guidelines for Drug Treatment Programs. DHS guidelines provide for a more expeditious, cost-effective health screening process relative to TB testing. Under the guidelines program participants with a documented previous positive tuberculin skin test (TST) do not require a subsequent TST within their lifetime. Participants with a documented negative TST within the prior three months do not need a TST upon reentry to a drug program.

A policy letter issued by the FDA, Correspondence Reference No. CA-10, 220M, states, "A patient who has undergone treatment in another program where he has had a physical examination and laboratory tests within three months can be admitted without a new physical examination and laboratory tests."

The FDA confirms their policy in another letter, Correspondence Reference No. CA-10, 309M, ". . . the Food and Drug Administration does not require repeated physical examination and laboratory tests if there is no interruption of treatment with the continuity of patient care maintained from one location to the other."

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs is adopting the DHS Tuberculosis Screening Guidelines for Drug treatment programs in order to implement the FDA interpretation **only for TB testing**. All other laboratory testing and physical examinations will be required according to Title 9, CCR, Section 10270(a)(2)(3).

**REFERENCES**

**HISTORY**

**QUESTIONS/MAINTENANCE**

If you have any questions you may call Ms. Joy Jarfors, Manager of the Narcotic Treatment Program Licensing Branch, at (916) 323-2032, or contact your NTP licensing analyst.

**EXHIBITS**

**DISTRIBUTION**