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June 30, 2017

Martha W. King
Executive Director
NYC Board of Correction
1 Centre Street, Room 2213
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. King:

In accordance with the Board of Correction's New York City Correctional Health Care Minimum Standards, Section 3-13, "Variances," the Correctional Health Services (CHS) division of the NYC Health + Hospitals requests renewal, for a 6-month period, of a continuing variance from Section 3-04(b)(2)(v)(a) of the Minimum Standards, which requires that a tuberculin skin test (TST) be administered during the intake screening process for inmates who do not have a prior history of a positive reaction to the test. The variance, first granted by the Board in July 2013, and applicable to inmates throughout the NYC correctional system, authorizes CHS to use either interferon gamma release assays (IGRA) or TST for tuberculosis screening, and to exempt from repeat screening those prisoners who have a documented negative test in the six months prior to their admission.

The new tuberculosis screening program began at the RMSC in 2011 and then at facilities housing male inmates in 2012. Since implementation of the program, we have observed that the use of IGRAs at intake is feasible and adds negligible additional time to the intake process, while saving significant time subsequently by obviating the need for post-intake follow-up of TST results and associated documentation. CHS has now had many years of experience with IGRA, which has proven to be a valuable and effective tool in controlling tuberculosis in the jail system.

Accompanying this letter is our report on the IGRA initiative as required by the terms of the variance.

The consideration of the Board members and staff is greatly appreciated in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'George Axelrod', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Axelrod
Correctional Health Services

c: Patsy Yang, DrPH
Ross MacDonald, MD

QuantiferON (QFT) Progress Report
December 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017

Discription	Male NYSIDs (12/1/2016 - 5/31/2017)	% Male	Female NYSIDs (12/1/2016 - 5/31/2017)	% Female	Total NYSIDs (12/1/2016 - 5/31/2017)	% Total
Total NYSIDs with Intakes or State Transfer w/ QFT Orders	19,435		2,035		21,470	
Ineligibles: (% of NYSIDs)						
State Transfers	117	0.6%	16	0.8%	133	0.6%
Positive History	1,208	6.2%	120	5.9%	1,328	6.2%
Patients had negative results in previous 6 months	880	4.5%	69	3.4%	949	4.4%
Total Ineligible Patients	2,205	11.3%	205	10.1%	2,410	11.2%
Not Tested (% of NYSIDs)						
Lab Result = "Test Not Performed"	15	0.1%	2	0.1%	17	0.1%
Lab Result = "Refused"	124	0.6%	14	0.7%	138	0.6%
Lab Result = "Not available/Discharged"	473	2.4%	66	3.2%	539	2.5%
Total Not Tested Patients	612	3.1%	82	4.0%	694	3.2%
Total Eligible Intakes or State Transfer w/ QFT Orders that were tested	16,618	85.5%	1,748	85.9%	18,366	85.5%
Lab Result Breakdown for Eligibles (% of Eligibles)						
Normal/Negative/Non-Reactive	16,071	96.7%	1,693	96.9%	17,764	96.7%
Abnormal/Positive/Reactive	472	2.8%	36	2.1%	508	2.8%
Indeterminate	75	0.5%	19	1.1%	94	0.5%