October 24, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

A person whose test result for tuberculosis (TB) infection is positive should undergo a chest x-ray to rule out active TB disease. A physician uses the chest x-ray result, as well as the medical history and physical examination, to determine appropriate follow up.

Once a person:

- tests positive for TB infection and
- has had a chest x-ray that is negative for active TB disease

no follow-up radiologic tests are recommended or indicated as long as the person has no symptoms of active TB.

Some employers still recommend routine follow-up chest x-rays at regular intervals; such radiographs are not indicated, nor are they recommended by city, state or federal health agencies.1,2

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Chest Centers will not perform follow-up chest x-rays for persons who are already known to have a positive test for TB infection, have had a chest x-ray that is negative for active TB disease, and who have no symptoms of active TB. If completion of a follow-up chest x-ray is a condition of employment, individuals or employers may contact the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control (BTBC) on the TB Hotline at (844) 713-0559 for assistance to bring their policies into accordance with city, state and federal recommendations.

Chest x-rays should be obtained on all patients with suspected or confirmed active TB as indicated, regardless of when the test for TB infection was done. In addition, a chest X-ray should be performed just prior to the initiation of prophylaxis for TB infection.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joseph Burzynski, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Tuberculosis Control


TB 118 (Rev. 10/2017) No Repeat Chest X-Ray Needed