



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
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Changes to Services at the New York City Bureau of Tuberculosis Control Chest Centers

Dear Colleague:

Effective February 16, 2009, the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control made the following changes to its clinic services:

The Bureau will no longer perform tests for TB infection (TST or Quantiferon) on individuals seeking testing for administrative purposes. Administrative testing includes testing done as a prerequisite for employment or for college/school. Screening tests are only beneficial when the person being tested is at considerable risk for TB infection and if infected, is at high risk for developing active TB. Those found to be infected should therefore be treated. We have found that most people seeking screening/testing for administrative purposes in our clinics are not at risk for developing TB, and testing them has no public health benefit. Chest center staff have been instructed to validate the reason why the client would like to be tested. Those seeking testing for administrative purposes will be informed that such testing is no longer performed by the Bureau since it is unnecessary. Those who insist on being tested for whatever reason will be given a list of places that offer TB test with the understanding that some of these places may charge a fee for the service.

You can find more information on our website at  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/tb.shtml>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph N. Burzynski".

Joseph N. Burzynski, MD, MPH  
Assistant Commissioner/Director  
Bureau of Tuberculosis Control