

Tuberculosis Prevention

Requirement for Comprehensive Care Nursing Facilities

ISDH HCQRS: Program Advisory Letter

Number: LTC-2019-01-SNF/NF

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Created: November 25, 2019

Cancels: None

Reviewed: n/a

Revised: n/a

ADVISORY SUMMARY

- **Effective Date: January 1, 2020**
- **This advisory letter sets out the expectations for Indiana licensed comprehensive care facilities for preventing the transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**
- **To become exempt from the rules at 410 IAC 16.2-3.1-14(t)(1)(2), a facility must adopt and implement a nationally recognized standard for the control and prevention of tuberculosis for health care workers.**

Background: The comprehensive care facility rules have long held prescriptive requirements related to testing and screening for tuberculosis. These prescriptive rules have not remained current as guidance has changed over time related to the prevention of tuberculosis.

Analysis: The guidance for the prevention and transmission of tuberculosis has changed significantly over time to the extent that the prescriptive guidance is out of sync with current guidance. Additionally, the prescriptive nature of the rules does not provide facilities the latitude to adjust infection control practices to meet the situational status of the facility. It is the intent of this advisory letter to remove regulatory barriers and provide facilities the ability to adjust infection control procedures and processes to meet the level of intervention needed based on the facility's risk.

Policy: To allow facilities to maintain control and prevention of tuberculosis in the least restrictive and most cost effective manner, the ISDH is issuing a blanket waiver exempting facilities from current regulatory requirements and instituting an alternative method to achieve

the intended outcome of 410 IAC 16.2-3.1-14(t)(1)(2). To be exempt from 410 IAC 16.2-3.1-14(t)(1)(2), the facility must formally adopt a nationally recognized standard and implement and follow the standard as written. Should a facility fail to meet the exemption requirement, a deficient practice citation will be written.

The nationally recognized program for employees is found at:
<https://cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>

Attachments:

Updated Recommendations for Tuberculosis (TB) Screening, Testing, and Treatment
Health Care Personnel (HCP) Baseline Individual TB Risk Assessment
TABLE. Comparison of 2005 and 2019 recommendations for tuberculosis (TB) screening and
testing of U.S. health care personnel (HCP)

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