



Tuberculin Skin Test Training Requirements

There are no statutes in the Indiana Code that address tuberculin skin test (TST) training or certification. However, untrained personnel cannot perform any medical or nursing task and still be in compliance with professional practice acts, performance standards, and the various facility licensure requirements. Health-care organizations still have to comply with current standards of practice and nationally established guidelines, practice acts for nurses, physicians, etc., as well as those of the various accrediting agencies if they expect to maintain their accreditation and license, and stay out of court.

The Department's Division of Long Term Care has a provision in their licensure rule for long-term care facilities (i.e., nursing homes, extended care facilities, and intermediate care facilities) that addresses tuberculin skin-testing. "Health Facilities Licensing and Operational Standards," 410 IAC 16.2-3.1-14(t) states ". . . a tuberculin skin test . . . administered by persons having documentation of training from a department-approved program. . ." This rule applies only to long-term care facilities. Note that it doesn't say "certified." It also does not require training in any specific program.

Rules are promulgated by the appropriate regulatory division or agency, e.g., the various divisions of the Department of Health, Family Social Services Administration, Department of Corrections. Private medical practices aren't regulated by anyone, but they still have to follow established guidelines and standards of practice.

TB skin test training classes offered through the American Lung Association of Indiana (ALA-I) are probably the most well-known in the state. It is a long-established training resource that is readily available to the TB control community. The curriculum, originally designed and administered by the State Department of Health TB Control Program in the 1970s, is based on the most current national TB guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indiana State Department of Health.

The ALA-I's network of instructors provides a readily available resource for TB skin test training, as well as training for those who want to become instructors. Requirements for who can attend the classes, who can be an instructor, requirements for payment of fees, and the new requirement for refresher training every three years for basic class attendees are all policies of the ALA, **not** the state of Indiana. There are no legal requirements to utilize the ALA. Health-care facilities and organizations can develop their own training programs.