

## When to Use Publicly Funded Tubersol®

Health care providers often ask when publicly funded tuberculin skin test (TST) solution (Tubersol®) can be used for screening clients for Tuberculosis. This resource clarifies the eligibility criteria and explains when to use publicly funded Tubersol®.

### PUBLICLY FUNDED TUBERSOL® MAY BE USED FOR PATIENTS WHO MEET AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

No fees are to be charged to clients for the administration of the TST and/or for the completion of TB-related forms with the exception of international students (see below)

✓ **Contacts of active TB cases**

Tubersol® is used for screening contacts of an active TB case. One of Simcoe Muskoka's Public Health roles with TB prevention and control is case and contact management activities.

✓ **Patients for whom TB screening with TST is deemed to be “medically necessary” by their health care provider**

For patients who have underlying medical conditions, medically necessary TSTs may also be required. A list of those at higher risk for TB disease may be found in the [Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 8th Edition; Chapter 4: Diagnosis of tuberculosis infection, Table 2.](#)

✓ **Residents under the age of 65 who are being admitted into long-term care facilities**

Universal TB testing for the purpose of screening prior to admission into a long-term care facility is not recommended for residents 65 years of age and older. In case of exposure to tuberculosis, testing for TB infection is to be applied on a case-by-case basis.

✓ **Students who require TB screening for school**

Students of educational institutions requiring TB screening as part of the admission or continuation of education relating to daycare or pre-school programming, or a program of study in a school, community college, university, or other educational institution, including any work placement(s) that are part of the student's curriculum. The TB screening must be a requirement of the educational institution and should be included on the documentation to be completed for submission to the school.

✓ **Students participating in work placement**

Students who require TB screening for work placements must provide documentation that confirms the placement is a component of their school curriculum.

✓ **International students**

Screening of international students who are required by their educational institution to complete TB screening. Costs associated with the administration and reading of a TST are not covered and fees associated with these interventions must be billed to the international student or a third party. It should be noted that no fees are to be charged to clients for the cost of the publicly funded Tubersol®.

## PUBLICLY FUNDED TUBERSOL<sup>®</sup> MUST **NOT** BE USED IN THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO:

Clients who request/require TB screening solely for employment purposes (paid or voluntary) are **not** eligible for:

- Publicly funded Tubersol<sup>®</sup>
- Administration of the test, and
- Completion of related documents eligible for public funding (through OHIP)

Your office may acquire Tubersol<sup>®</sup> privately and bill these patients accordingly. Alternatively, a client may acquire Tubersol<sup>®</sup> from a pharmacy through a valid prescription from their health care provider. Costs incurred for the administration of TST, reading and the completion of related documents are to be directed to the client or a third party as directed by the client.

**Individuals who are not insured through OHIP are not eligible for publicly funded TB screening.** If your client is not insured through OHIP, contact Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's TB Intake Line at 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8809 to assess if they are eligible for the TB Diagnostic and Treatment Services for Uninsured Persons (TB-UP) Program.

## PUBLICLY FUNDED ELIGIBILITY FOR TUBERSOL<sup>®</sup> AND A TST

Eligibility Criteria	Publicly funded TST Solution (Brand: Tubersol <sup>®</sup> )	Publicly funded TST Administration, Reading and Completion of Documentation
Contact cases of active TB	YES	YES
Long-term care facility residents <b>under 65 years of age</b>	YES	YES
Deemed "medically necessary" by health care provider	YES	YES
Students for admission or continuation in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• daycare</li> <li>• pre-school</li> <li>• school</li> <li>• community college</li> <li>• university</li> <li>• work placements as part of curriculum (e.g., co-op programs, internships)</li> </ul> Students who are affiliated through work or volunteer in the institutions listed above.	YES	YES
International students	YES	NO
Employees (paid employment)	NO	NO
Employees (volunteer)	NO	NO
Individuals without OHIP coverage	NO	NO

NOTE: "publicly funded" means a client must **not** be charged

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further details regarding billing for TST administration, reading of the test and documentation, consult:

- [OMA Physician's Guide to Uninsured Services](#)
- [OHIP info bulletin \(4692\)](#)

**Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit**

1-877-721-7520

smdhu.org

Adapted with permission from York Region Public Health

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