



Physician News Brief

NEWS ABOUT COVENANT HEALTHCARE FROM
The Office of Physician Relations & Regional Outreach

MAY 16, 2016

Changes to TB Policy Post Risk Assessment

A recent TB risk assessment was completed by Infection Prevention & Control which resulted in a “low risk classification” for Covenant HealthCare. This assessment finding is consistent with other local hospitals. This TB risk assessment will be performed annually to determine the actions for subsequent years. Several changes are being implemented as a result of guidelines set by the CDC *Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Healthcare Settings*:

- Upon hire or obtaining medical staff privileges, all providers will be required to receive a baseline screening using the TB gold blood test unless there is a documented history of a positive PPD or history of taking TB medications. In this case, a chest x-ray will be required unless one has been completed in the last 12 months.
- Annual TB testing/screening will no longer be required unless a suspected exposure or symptoms consistent with TB are identified
- Any medical staff member that will be visiting a high-risk TB endemic area and are planning to stay for longer than one year OR will be working in a high-risk setting for any given period of time, must be screened prior to going and every 6-12 months during visit. If your pre-departure TB screening was negative, you must be screened again in 8-10 weeks following return. Please contact Employee Health for care directions if this applies to you.

For questions or concerns, please contact Pam Miller at 989.583.4285, Jennifer Jarabeck at 989.583.6018, Ellen Schultz at 989.583.4284 or Carmen Webb at 989.583.6188.

Clarifications Requested in Progress Notes

If you are a consulted specialist and the patient is clear from your professional standpoint for discharge, please spell out in your progress note by simply stating, “Patient is clear from {your specialty} standpoint for discharge”. This will reduce phone calls from nursing staff, increase efficiency and provide more timely discharges to our patients.

Additionally, if you are a specialist ordering telemetry and feel the patient does not require such monitoring, clearly state this in your progress note so the PCP may discontinue the order. For questions, please contact Dr. Glenn Cipullo at 989.583.7002 or gcpullo@chs-mi.com.

New Faces

Moustarah, Fady, MD, Bariatric / General Surgery

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Mohammad, Sulaiman, MD, Neurology

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Covenant Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates, 1447 North Harrison, Saginaw, 989.583.4220

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