

TB TIPS

TB anywhere is TB everywhere



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Ontario County



The Role of Chest X-ray in TB Screening and Diagnosis

6th Edition: Spring/Summer 2015

A chest x-ray should be done during the initial evaluation of an individual with a reactive tuberculin skin test (TST, PPD) or blood assay (IGRA) even if there are no symptoms of active TB disease.

Future Screening

- Periodic screening for symptoms of active TB is recommended for individuals who have been treated for TB and those with a history of reactive TST or IGRA.
- Skin testing and IGRA's should not be repeated as they will always remain positive.
- Repeat chest x-rays are not recommended for future screening of asymptomatic persons. Screening chest x-rays expose individuals to unnecessary radiation and rarely identify cases of active TB disease in this population. Chest x-rays should be reserved for those with symptoms of active disease that include:
 - Cough >3 weeks
 - Unexplained weight loss
 - Hemoptysis
 - Fatigue
 - Fever
 - Night sweats

Ontario County Public Health provides treatment and case management at no charge to individuals with latent TB infection and active TB disease. For more information, call:

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