

TITLE:	TUBERCULOSIS TESTING	POLICY 28.04
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Authority: [RCW 70.28, Control of TB](#)
[WAC 246-320](#)

PURPOSE:

This policy describes tuberculosis (TB) testing requirements for all employees to protect both employees and residents by maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all Trouves employees, volunteers, and students.

DEFINITIONS:

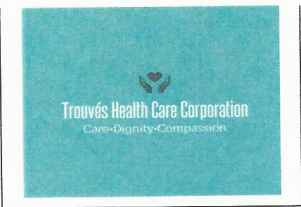
Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test (TST): Skin test used to detect tuberculosis infection. In the U.S.A., it is performed by using a 27 gauge needle and syringe to inject 0.1 ml containing 5 tuberculin units of purified protein derivative (PPD) between the layers of the skin (intradermal), usually on the forearm. The reaction to this test, the induration (palpable hardened area), is measured 48 to 72 hours after the injection.

Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA): A test that detects the presence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection by measuring the immune response to the tuberculosis bacteria from a blood sample. Two tests are approved for this use in the U.S.A.: the QuantiFERON-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) and the T-SPOT.

Tuberculosis Symptom Assessment: A standard questionnaire used to identify any symptoms of active tuberculosis disease.

POLICY:

- A. Tuberculosis (TB) screening are required of employment at Trouves Health Care facilities. All supervisors are responsible to monitor employees' compliance with this policy.
- B. Employees will complete baseline TB screening within 3 days of hire. Standard TB screening may deviate from regular time frames as regulated by the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.



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- C. TB screenings may be accomplished through a community healthcare provider at the employee’s expense. The tuberculosis testing is done through either:
 - 1. Intradermal (Mantoux) administration with test results read:
 - 2. Within forty-eight to seventy-two hours of the test; and
 - 3. By a trained professional; or
 - 4. A blood test for tuberculosis called interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA).

- D. Documentation of a medical evaluation completed through a community provider must be provided to the Trouves Human Resources. The documentation becomes a part of the employee’s confidential health record.

- E. An exception to this policy may occur if the facility specifically contracts and stipulates a second party may conduct TB screening.

PROCEDURE:

- A. Employees must provide documentation of a negative TB test or if documentation of a prior positive TST, positive IGRA, or TB disease history, complete a TB Symptom Assessment Questionnaire and obtain an initial chest x-ray or provide a written report of a chest x-ray completed within the past six months.

- B. Documentation is submitted to the employee’s direct supervisor within 3 days of hire.

EXCEPTIONS:

No exceptions to this policy may be granted without the prior written approval of the Director.

SUPERSEEDS:

None