



TUBERCULOSIS (TB) *Skin Test*

What is a tuberculin skin test (TB skin test)?

A TB skin test is used to detect if tuberculosis (TB) germs are present in your body. It does not contain TB germs, so it cannot give you TB.

Is the TB skin test an immunization?

No, it is not an immunization. It does not prevent people from developing TB infection or disease.

When do I need to get a TB skin test?

It is an important test to have when you have been recently exposed to someone who may have TB disease. It is also used when your health provider thinks you may have TB infection from past exposures that you are unaware of.

How is the TB skin test done?

A small injection is given between the top two layers of the skin on your arm, below your elbow. You must return to your medical provider 48 to 72 hours after the test to have them touch and look at your arm to read the test.

You may qualify for Medi-Cal benefits. People with TB infection or TB disease may also qualify for TB-Cal. To find out about your eligibility and to request an information packet and application, please call 1-858-514-6885. Collect calls are accepted.

Why is returning for a reading important?

The health provider needs to find out if you have TB infection by looking for a hard bump on your arm and measuring it, or to be sure that there is no bump. The exact size of the test is very important to tell if the TB germs are in your body.

Where can I get a TB skin test?

Your medical provider or the TB Control Program of the Health and Human Services Agency can give you a TB skin test. Patients may walk in without an appointment on Wednesdays at the main TB Clinic. For other clinic sites and hours call the main TB clinic at the number below. No one is refused for service if they cannot pay the fee for the skin test (unless the test is a condition of your employment or licensure). The test costs around \$10 at county clinics.