



To: Licensed Nursing Homes and Community Residential Care Facilities

From: DHEC Healthcare Quality

Date: May 22, 2024

RE: Tuberculosis screening of residents admitted from a hospital and S.558/Section 44-31-40

On May 20, 2024, Governor McMaster signed into law [S.558](#) which adds Section 44-31-40 to the S.C. Code of Laws regarding the tuberculosis screening of nursing home or community residential care facility ***residents admitted from a hospital.***

Prior to admission of such residents, the nursing home or community residential care facility (CRCF) must:

- 1) Request and receive a written declaration, which can be in a hospital progress note or discharge summary, from an authorized healthcare provider that, based upon medical examination, the resident has no signs or symptoms of active tuberculosis;
- 2) Within 3 days of admission of the resident, administer the first step of the two-step tuberculin skin test (TST) to the resident; and
- 3) Within 14 days of admission of the resident, administer the second step of the two-step TST to the resident.

Additionally, a nursing home or CRCF may substitute a single blood assay for mycobacterium tuberculosis (BAMT) for a two-step TST. Further, if the facility has documentation that within the 12-month period prior to admission the resident obtained a negative tuberculin skin test or a negative single BAMT, then it may administer a single TST or single BAMT within 14 days of the resident's admission.

Section 44-31-40 does not concern residents admitted from settings other than a hospital. The resident tuberculosis screening requirements for residents admitted from other settings can be found at [Regulation 61-17 Section 1704](#) for nursing homes and [Regulation 61-84 Section 1702.E and -F](#) for CRCFs.



Should you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Amber Capers, Director of the Nursing Home Section, at capersae@dhec.sc.gov or (803) 545-4284 or JoMonica Taylor, Director of the Community Services Section, at taylorjj@dhec.sc.gov or (803) 545-4257.