DATE: July 9, 2015

TO: Health Care Providers, Long Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Community Care Access Centres, Algonquin College, St. Lawrence College, Occupational Health - Brockville General Hospital, Almonte General Hospital, Kemptville District Hospital, Smiths Falls and Perth District Hospital

FROM: Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN PUBLICLY-FUNDED TUBERSOL AND TB SKIN TESTING

Eligibility

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has updated their eligibility requirements for the use of Tubersol and publicly-funded TB skin testing (TBST).

Tubersol is now only publicly-funded for the following individuals:

- Contacts of an active case of TB
- Medically indicated individuals that are at increased risk of developing active TB due to impaired immunity (e.g. HIV, diabetes, renal failure, and immunosuppressant medications)
- Individuals requiring admission to Treatment Rehabilitation Centres
- Residents who are under 65 years of age prior to admissions to Long-Term Care facilities

Tubersol is not publicly funded for third party requests including:

- Employment or educational requirements
- Volunteer placements
- Resident admissions to Retirement Homes

Tubersol Distribution Process

As of September 1st 2015, the Health Unit will distribute publicly-funded Tubersol to Health Care Providers for individuals who meet the new eligibility requirement as noted above.

Health Care Providers may purchase Tubersol for third party requests for tuberculin skin testing as outlined above directly from Sanofi Pasteur by calling 1-800-268-4171.

Another option is to provide clients with a prescription for Tubersol to be filled at a local pharmacy, but the client would be responsible for the cost of the 10-dose vial as Tubersol is not available in single-dose vials.

Health Unit Clinics

Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements as listed above will still be able to have tuberculin testing done at Health Unit clinics free of charge.

As of September 1st 2015, an increase in the current fee will be charged to third party requests as the Health Unit must now purchase Tubersol directly from the manufacturer.

- Cost for 1-Step TB Skin test will be $25.00
- Cost for 2-Step TB Skin test will be $50.00

For further Information, please call the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit Infectious Disease Team at 613-345-5685 or 1-800-660-5853.