Important Information for Primary Care Providers about Tuberculosis Testing for Children

Please follow the Texas Health Steps Periodicity Schedule* which recommends a tuberculosis (TB) test for children only when indicated by the annually administered screening questionnaire. Because of the increase in requests for TB tests in parts of TX, please review the following screening test indicators:

**No repeat skin test necessary:**
- If a prior TB test was negative, even if the child was born outside of the U.S.
- If the prior TB test was negative and occurred at least eight weeks after any of the following:
  - Contact with anyone sick with TB
  - Visiting Mexico or any other country in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Eastern Europe or Asia for more than three weeks
  - Spending more than three weeks with anyone who:
    - Uses needles for drug use
    - Has AIDS
    - Was or is in jail or prison
    - Has just come to the U.S. from another country
- If a prior TB test was positive, the child does not need a repeat skin test

**Order an immediate chest x-ray if the child ever exhibited or currently exhibits any of the following:**
- Weight loss
- Persistent cough lasting more than two weeks
- Hemoptysis

For more information, visit [dshs.state.tx.us](http://dshs.state.tx.us). Go to Disease Prevention, then Infectious Disease Prevention, then Infectious Diseases T-Z.

* Mandatory for STAR and STAR+PLUS members (recommended observance for CHIP members) under the age of 21.

To review other provider alerts, visit [www.UHCCommunityPlan.com](http://www.UHCCommunityPlan.com). Select For Healthcare Professionals then Texas. From the left menu select Bulletins and then Provider Alerts.

If you have any questions, please contact Customer Service at 888-887-9003 or Provider Relations at providerservicestx@uhc.com.

To request an appeal, write:
Complaints and Appeals
P.O. Box 31364
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