



TOBY DOUGLAS  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

Date: October 25, 2013

SUD Compliance Division Letter #13-07

To: All Alcohol and Drug Providers

Subject: Nationwide Shortage of Tuberculin Skin Test Antigen Solutions

This letter conveys important information regarding the shortage of tuberculin skin tests (TBT). In April 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported there was a nationwide shortage of TUBERSOL®, a product of Sanofi Pasteur Limited. The CDC anticipates the shortage would conclude sometime in October 2013.

The CDC recommends three approaches to alleviate the shortage, as follows, which may be performed by a physician or other medical professional authorized to perform the appropriate tests:

- Substitute interferon-γ release assay blood tests for TBTs.
- Substitute APLISOL® for TUBERSOL® for skin testing if APLISOL® is available. In studies, the two products give similar results for most patients.
- Allocate TBTs to priority usages, such as TB contact investigations, as determined by public health authorities.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has a statutory requirement to require TBTs from any employee who has direct contact with participants/residents, and for clients of licensed-residential facilities. If it is discovered the appropriate persons do not have the required TBT within the mandated time frame, the department will issue a deficiency. The program may submit a corrective action plan on how they will resolve the lack of a TBT.

All information and regulatory requirements may be reviewed on the DHCS website at <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/SUD-ProvPartners.aspx>.

Sincerely,

MARLIES PEREZ  
Acting Division Chief  
Substance Use Disorder Compliance Division

cc: County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators  
Strategic Local Government Services, LLC  
Licensed Residential Providers  
Certified Outpatient Providers  
Director's Advisory Council  
LCD Managers and Staff