INFECTION CONTROL: TUBERCULOSIS
Policy #: CP292

NHPCO Standard(s): CES 13, 14
Regulatory Citation(s): COPs 418.60, 10 NYCRR Section 794.3(d)(4)

POLICY

High Peaks Hospice (HPH) will follow all state and federal recommendations for the prevention of Tuberculosis mycobacterium infection (TB) in the workplace. All staff members who have contact with patients will be required to have a TB Screening prior to employment or voluntary service and yearly thereafter if findings are negative.

PROCEDURE

1. Either tuberculin skin test (TST) or Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved blood assay for the detection of latent tuberculosis infection will be used for screening HPH staff members for TB.

2. A newly hired employee or volunteer without documentation of a negative TB finding within the past twelve months must have a TB Screening before they can start employment or voluntary service contact with patients.

3. An individual with Positive TB findings will be required to seek appropriate clinical follow-up but will not repeat the tuberculin skin test or blood assay. A chest x-ray and a physical exam will be required. If active TB is suspected or diagnosed, the staff member should not return to work until the active pulmonary or laryngeal TB disease has been ruled out.

4. Staff members with positive skin tests will be periodically reminded of the symptoms of TB and encouraged to seek medical assistance if they experience any of these symptoms.

5. Any staff member with active infectious TB may not return to work until they have been clinically proven to be non-infectious. Staff members on preventive therapy may continue to work. Documentation from the individual’s medical provider will be necessary and filed in the personnel file.

LAST REVIEW DATE: BOD 11/17/15
LAST UPDATED: QAPI/IDT 9/18/15, Comp Coord 09/01/18
BOARD APPROVAL: 11/17/15