

Blastfax

Issues on TB Questionnaire for Medicaid Patients

It has come to the attention of GA AAP that there are issues with the TB questionnaire and Mantoux screening policies that are listed in the current Health Check Manual.

We have discussed these issues with DCH, and they are in the process of reviewing the policies and materials, and are planning revisions for October 2007.

We wish to alert our members to the following:

- 1) To be in compliance with DCH Health Check Policy, members should be administering TB questionnaires at all Health Check visits, starting at the 3 – 4 day Health Check.
- 2) The Spanish language questionnaire has a serious translation error in question #3, which can lead to a high risk child not being correctly identified. This questionnaire was apparently added to the DCH policy manual in August 2006, so any child screened with that version of the Spanish language questionnaire should be re-screened with a corrected questionnaire (see correction below).
- 3) The current TB questionnaire in the DCH manual states that all children with a positive screen on questionnaire should receive a Mantoux test. Of course, we do not give Mantoux tests at age 3 days. DCH will revise this in October. In the meantime, see the AAP Redbook for further information. According to the Redbook a Mantoux test should not be given under age 3 months, and if one is given to young infants. It can be negative in the face of actual tuberculosis infection. We will await further clarification from DCH and DHR.
- 4) If a child has a parent born outside the United States, then by definition of the present questionnaire in the DCH manual, that child will always be at high risk. Yet it makes no medical sense to give that child a PPD at EVERY Health Check. DCH will clarify in its revision how often repeat PPDs are recommended in this case.

Reminder: All Mantoux tests need to be read by a qualified nurse or provider 2 - 3 days after administration.

Correcting the TB Questionnaire in Spanish in the DCH manual:

This is the question as listed:

3. ¿Nació el padre del niño o niña fuera de los Estados Unidos? Sí No

The problem is that it only asks if the FATHER was born outside the USA (not the child or the mother)

CORRECTED QUESTION # 3:

3. ¿Nació el niño/nina o uno de las padres del niño fuera de los Estados Unidos? Si no

GA AAP will forward clarifications on TB policy to our members when we receive them from DCH.

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