



January 16, 2024

Dear Tuberculosis Colleagues:

The 2024 Technical Instructions for Tuberculosis (TB TIs) for Panel Physicians have been posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website and are effective as of January 24, 2024, with major changes to testing to be implemented no later than October 1, 2024.

The 2024 TB TIs define the requirements for [panel physicians](#) examining applicants overseas for infectious tuberculosis disease. These instructions are specific to the immigration medical evaluation overseas. They should not be used as guidance to test for or treat tuberculosis disease in other settings or as a clinical manual that defines detailed laboratory procedures or specific treatment regimen details. CDC's Division of Global Migration Health (DGMH) developed these instructions in consultation with US tuberculosis subject matter experts and US panel physicians.

You can access the 2024 TB TIs for panel physicians at <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/panel/technical-instructions-panel-physicians.html>

Major revisions in the 2024 TB TIs that go into effect on October 1, 2024, include:

- Panel physicians must perform an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) on all applicants 2 years of age and older in countries with a World Health Organization (WHO)-estimated tuberculosis incidence rate of ≥ 20 cases per 100,000 population, to begin no later than October 1, 2024. Children in these countries have been required to receive IGRA testing since 2018. Note that applicants 15 years and older in these countries will continue to receive a chest x-ray regardless of IGRA results. Panel Physicians will now be allowed to use WHO-approved IGRA tests in addition to US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved tests to improve availability and potentially lower costs.
- Panel physicians must perform a molecular test in addition to sputum smears and culture. The molecular test must be a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) and must be performed on the first respiratory specimen from all applicants requiring sputum collection for initial diagnosis. Panel physicians must begin using a molecular test no later than October 1, 2024.
- Please see TB TIs for other minor revisions.

Updates to the [Civil Surgeon](#) TB TIs for examination of applicants within the United States will be posted in the coming weeks, and additional information will be provided at that time. If you have any questions regarding the 2024 TB TIs for Panel Physicians, you may contact CDC QAP at cdcqap@cdc.gov.

Thank you for your support in this important public health matter.

Sincerely,

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