ODH TB Rules Update

Mandy Smith

New ODH TB rules effective December 8, 2014 -- Please note clarification in questions #3:

O.A.C. Chapter 3701-17 - Nursing Homes:

O.A.C. rules 3701-17-07, 3701-17-10, 3701-17-11, and 3701-17-22. These rules pertain to licensure of nursing homes. Amendments are proposed due to 1) ongoing concern from the nursing home industry regarding the availability of tuberculin skin tests; and 2) statutory changes (House Bill 59) that require nursing homes to participate in advanced care planning with residents and to eliminate overhead paging except for emergency situations.

O.A.C. Chapter 3701-17 - Residential Care Facilities:

O.A.C. rules 3701-17-55, 3701-17-58, and 3701-17-62. These rules pertain to residential care facilities. Changes are a result of meetings regarding a tuberculin skin test shortage. Amendments require tuberculosis testing in accordance with the facility's assessment under Center for Disease Control guidelines.

EFOHCA provided a webinar titled "Be Prepared for TB Testing Changes!" on October 30 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. regarding these rules. This recorded webinar is available for purchase through OHCA. Following the EFOHCA October 30 Webinar: Be Prepared for TB Testing Changes, there were several questions raised which have been answered by Jayson Rogers, ODH Division of Quality Assurance Policy, Projects & Research:

Q: CDC does not address volunteers so do they not require TB testing? If they do, is there a timeframe as far as when or how many days/month etc. that they are in the facility? Students? Contracted Employees?

A: These individuals fall under the definition of "health care worker" in the definitions and therefore require testing. To provide some relief for testing for facilities identified as low risk, ODH will apply the standard of working more than ten hours in a thirty day period before testing is required.

Q: Do we need to do the first TB test prior to an employee start date?

A: Yes. In order to provide a baseline for that individual entering the facility, any testing or assessment must be done prior to the individual beginning employment. Further, if the test is positive, the individual must have a negative chest x-ray before having resident contact.

Q: If a resident has a TB test from one facility and then is transferred do they need another one or can we use the prior facilities? Is there a timeframe theirs is good until? What about 2 step vs. 1 step?

A: A facility may accept documentation of the results of a TB test taken within the last year as a baseline for residents and employees. The facility must still assess residents and employees for signs or symptoms of TB.