DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
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IN REPLY REFER TO
BUMEDINST 6224.8A CH-1
BUMED-M3/5
29 Oct 2009

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6224.8A CHANGE TRANSMITTAL 1

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
To: Ships and Stations Having Medical Department Personnel

Subj: TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM

Encl: (1) Revised page 1 of enclosure (1)

1. Purpose. To clarify the use of questionnaires for screening for tuberculosis, and establish minimum standards for answers to questions on NAVMED 6224/8, Interim Tuberculosis Exposure Risk Assessment.

2. Action. Remove page 1 of enclosure (1) of the basic instruction and replace with enclosure (1) of this change transmittal.

3. Retain. For record purposes, keep this change transmittal in front of the basic instruction.

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# TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING AND TESTING

1. TB Testing on Entry into Naval Service. Skin and blood tests are available for identifying individuals asymptomatically infected with the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex bacteria that cause TB. Appropriate testing identifies persons with latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). These individuals are at increased risk for developing active TB and should be treated to reduce their risk for developing active disease and transmitting TB infection to others. Personnel diagnosed with LTBI based on a positive skin or blood test and without active disease are not infectious.

a. All Navy and Marine Corps accessions, and all individuals beginning employment as CIVMARs for the Military Sealift Command, must be tested for LTBI unless there is documentation of previous TB infection as described below.

b. Individuals with a history of TB, a positive TST or other LTBI test, or treatment for LTBI must provide any available medical documentation of clinical evaluations, hospitalizations, diagnoses, and treatments. Documentation includes copies of pertinent medical records, treatment records, or a physician's statement on letterhead stationery. Pertinent information should be transcribed into the medical record. If such documentation is not available, follow the testing procedures in this instruction.

2. LTBI Screening at Times other than Entry

a. Screen all active duty and reserve personnel during the Periodic Health Assessment, using NAVMED 6224/8, Interim Tuberculosis Exposure Risk Assessment, to determine TB exposure history and risk of acquiring TB. Individuals answering "yes" to one or more questions on this form are deemed to be at increased risk. CIVMARS will be screened annually or during their periodic physical examination. Subsequently, perform LTBI skin tests or blood tests only on individuals deemed to be at increased risk of acquiring TB. Additional screening and subsequent testing may be done:

(1) As directed by combatant commanders.

(2) As part of a contact or outbreak investigation.

(3) If clinically indicated by an individual practitioner based on history or physical (clinic visit, Periodic Health Assessment, Post-deployment Health Assessment, etc.).

(4) As recommended by the cognizant NAVENPVNTMEDU.

b. Results from this additional screening and testing can be used to meet other LTBI assessment requirements if performed within 6 months of the requirement date.

3. Testing After Receipt of Orders to a Commissioned Vessel. All personnel must be tested for LTBI (or clinically evaluated for persons with prior LTBI diagnosis) during their operational suitability screening. LTBI test results documented within the 6 months prior to reporting aboard a commissioned vessel are acceptable.