



Health Unit



DATE: December 12, 2013

MEMO TO: People Planning to Move to a Long-Term Care (Nursing Home) or Retirement Home

FROM: Public Health Units in the South West; Grey Bruce Health Unit, Elgin
St. Thomas Public Health, Huron County Health Unit, Middlesex-London Health Unit,
Oxford County Public Health & Emergency Services, Perth District Health Unit

RE: **Tuberculosis (TB) Screening**

There is a lot to consider when planning to move to a nursing home (long-term care home) or retirement home. This letter outlines the latest requirements for tuberculosis (TB) screening that should be done, if possible, before you are admitted. It is important to show this letter to your family doctor at your next appointment, so that this screening can be done as part of your pre-admission medical assessment.

The *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 (for nursing homes)*, and *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*, require that all residents admitted to a nursing home or retirement home be screened for TB. This screening can be completed 90 days or less before being admitted. If this is not possible, the screening **must** be completed no later than 14 days after being admitted to the home.

TB Screening for all New Residents Moving to Nursing or Retirement Homes

1. Medical assessment for active TB symptoms which involves a physical assessment and symptom review for active TB disease.
2. Chest X-ray – both posterior- anterior (PA) and lateral views. A copy of the report must be provided to the nursing or retirement home.
3. Persons less than 65 years of age may receive TB skin testing as well as a chest X-ray, depending on the amount of TB disease in your community.

These items must be completed within **90 days prior to admission or no later than 14 days after admission**.

***Please visit your family doctor to arrange to have a chest x-ray completed before admission if at all possible.** The medical assessment for active TB symptoms may be completed by your family doctor or a physician who provides services at the nursing home or retirement home. The TB skin test, if required, may be completed at the nursing home or retirement home.

These requirements will help to protect residents, visiting family members, and facility staff from being exposed to active TB disease.

For more information on TB disease, please see the attached fact sheet or visit <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tbpc-latb/fa-fi/>

If you have any questions, please contact your local Public Health agency for further information or direction.